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OPINION METER

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Neo Gold Wings brings partners for \$1.6B to \$3B Tinian project



HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

Beijing Huagao Yongdao Investment Consulting Co. Ltd. managing director and chief consultant Fuming Huang, left, and Neo Gold Wings Paradise chairman and CEO Joseph Hyun, second from left, sign a memorandum of understanding for the construction of close to 800 cottages on Tinian as part of a \$1.6 billion to \$3 billion casino resort on Tinian, during a ceremony yesterday. Also in photo are Lt. Gov. Eloy S. Inos and Tinian Mayor Ramon Dela Cruz, right.

'ETC measure will hamper the Manta band's fundraising for London trip'

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
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REPORTER

The possible enactment of a contentious bill that would temporarily suspend the educational tax credit program will affect the fundraising efforts of the Saipan Southern High School Manta Ray Band's trip to London for the 2012 Olympic Games.

Will DeWitt, conductor of the 42-piece concert band, said they would have to

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Another federalization hearing in DC

» **Congressional staffers meet with local, federal officials in NMI**

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

Visiting congressional staffers told lawmakers yesterday that the U.S. House Subcommittee on Fisheries, Wildlife, Oceans and Insular Affairs will hold in July or sometime in the summer a hearing on the implementation of the law that placed CNMI immigration under federal control.

The hearing will be held in Washington, D.C. The visiting congressional staffers included Bonnie Bruce, Brian Modeste and Robert Schwalbach, along with U.S. Navy Lt. Cdr.

See **FEDERALIZATION** on **Page 4**



HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

From left, Rep. Joseph Palacios (R-Saipan), Senate President Paul Manglona (Ind-Rota), visiting congressional staffers Brian Modeste and Robert Schwalbach, Kyle Calabrese from the CNMI delegate office, and Sen. Ralph Torres (R-Saipan) after a closed-door meeting yesterday between the congressional delegation and members of the CNMI Legislature on Capital Hill.

» **DPL, investors talk today about land lease issues**

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

Neo Gold Wings Paradise Casino and Hotel brought to the CNMI yesterday investment partners from Korea, China, and the U.S. to build their planned \$1.6 billion to \$3 billion projects that include a six-star casino hotel and resort, a theme park, and a 36-hole golf course on Tinian.

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SENATE TO SAIPAN DELEGATION:

'We will sue you if you pass local casino bill'

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

Senate President Paul Manglona (Ind-Rota) wrote to Saipan and Northern Islands Legislative Delegation chair Ray Tebuteb (R-Tinian) yesterday, saying the Senate will bring "legal action" once the delegation passes a local bill legalizing casino gambling on Saipan. He reiterated that the bill is unconstitutional.

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Local

MCS Theatre Club presents 'Zero to Hero'

By **MONETH G. DEPOSA**
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REPORTER

A movie made almost entirely by Mount Carmel School students will be publicly screened at the Hollywood Theaters next week.

Zero to Hero, a teenage romantic comedy offering from the school's Theatre Club, will be screened on May 25 at 4pm and then at 7pm at the Hollywood Theaters. Ticket will be sold for \$5 each.

Produced and directed by

Galvin Deleon Guerrero, the movie involves about 40 cast and crew of the school's theater group and is their first production for the year.

The movie was previewed in a news briefing attended by the production's main cast at

the American Memorial Park yesterday.

Zero to Hero stars Victor Cabrera as Zero, a geek who tries to snag a date with the prom queen Amanda Diamond, played by Janela Revilla, by running for prom king. With help from his

friends Cicero, played by John Edward Elenzano, and Diana, played by Mae Nakajima, Zero rallies the geeks, freaks, nerds, and misfits of his campus behind him in a campaign against Richard Richards, played by Kevin Bautista.

"The message is great, especially now that bullying is a big issue in community and schools. The message is that not only should we not bully anyone but we should celebrate each individual how unique they are," said Deleon Guerrero, who conceptualized the storyline about five years ago.

He described the production as "very inspiring."

"This movie is almost entirely student-made so I think it's really inspiring and a great way to honor their hard work is by coming to watch the show," he said.

Pre-production began in January this year with auditions and a collaborative script-development process that involved lead cast members. Shooting ran from February through May at a wide variety of locations throughout the island. The movie runs for 90 minutes.

Deleon Guerrero said the movie includes animation done by the students.

The production's associate producers include Joseph Tajeron and Velma Deleon Guerrero; technical director is Lourence Camacho; production designer is Alyssia Ashley Olarte; unit production manager is Victoria Camacho; and first assistant director is Britany Yamagata.

EMO to host cyclone preparedness workshop

The Emergency Management Office, together with the National Weather Service Forecast Office in Tiyan, Guam, will be hosting the Tropical Cyclone, Disaster Preparedness and Climate Workshop for the CNMI on May 23-24, 2011.

The two-day annual event will be held at the Pacific Island Club in San Antonio, Saipan, from 8:30am to 4:30pm.

The first day will focus on many aspects of tropical cyclones and the warning system, the causes the weather hazards in the CNMI, volcanoes, rip current, and the tsunami risk and the new program for the CNMI. The second day will focus on climate change, El Niño and tropical cyclone risk, and vulnerability in the CNMI, and tropical cyclone decision-making.

The course is designed for key decision-makers or their assistants of government agencies, non-government organizations, and the business/private sector.

A separate three-hour course will be held for media at a later date. Separate workshops will also be held on Rota and Tinian.

To register or to obtain more information, contact Juan T. Camacho at EMO at 322-9528 or jtcamacho@cnmiemo.gov.mp. (**EMO**)



MONETH G. DEPOSA

The cast and crew of the film *Zero to Hero* pose for a group photo after yesterday's preview and press conference at American Memorial Park visitor center. The students are all members of Mount Carmel School's Theatre Club.

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Fund wants adoptions, disability clients investigated

By **MONETH G. DEPOSA**
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REPORTER

An investigation on the existing beneficiaries of both disability claims and adopted children of retirees is being sought by members of the NMI Retirement Fund board of trustees due to alleged abuses in the system.

Board chair Sixto Igisomar said during Tuesday's meeting that the Fund has received information about potential and existing abuses that further erode the pension program's

financial viability.

The board stopped accepting retiree adoptions for survivor benefits in September 2009 due to the lack of resources. The agency also ceased processing changes or additions to applications for retirement that sought to add more beneficiaries—mainly adoptees—until such time that the Fund recovers from its fiscal distress.

Igisomar said that retirees have also asked the Fund to investigate potential abuses in the program's disability benefits.

Igisomar instructed Fund administrator Richard Villagomez to hire investigators to do the job, subject to the approval of both the fiscal and investment committee and the board of trustees.

"If you feel you need to outsource this [for the investigation to move forward], present your recommendation to the committee. Also for the disability, we need to investigate if people who filed for disability claims are really disabled persons," he said at the meeting.

Igisomar said the Fund's policy on adopted beneficiaries also need to be clarified. He said there are adopted children who continue to receive benefits even though they are no longer living with the retiree. Igisomar said this is "unfair" to members.

"Yes, we stopped the adoption. But there is a legitimate issue involved here: I married someone I love and I want to adopt the kid of the person I married who is considered legally part of the family," he said.

Board member Jerry Crisostomo recommended that, instead of hiring an investigator or contracting one out, the Fund should just appoint one of its employees to do this specific task.

To aid the investigation, Crisostomo said the Fund could work with the Public School System to verify records of adopted children of retirees.

In a court judgment in June 2009, the Superior Court said that the Fund is "partially responsible" for the mess it is in because it has been too generous in allowing grandchildren and great grandchildren of first-

generation retirees to obtain benefits long after the original retiree has died.

The court said the Fund was designed to provide for retirees and their spouses and it is assumed that when a person retires, his or her children are already grown.

The Fund earlier noted that many of its members adopted other individuals after retiring, with the effect of enhancing retiree survivor benefits for persons who were not listed as beneficiaries in the original submission of the application. This increased the Fund's unfunded liability.

Cabrera, Lizama to defend NMC accreditation with WASC

By **MONETH G. DEPOSA**
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REPORTER

Lorraine T. Cabrera, interim Northern Marianas College president, and Juan T. Lizama, chairman of the Board of Regents, will fly to San Francisco next month to defend the college's accreditation before the 19-member Accreditation Commission of Community Junior Colleges.

According to accreditation liaison officer Galvin Deleon Guerrero yesterday, the college

is also gearing up for the completion of its supplemental report, which is scheduled for submission at the end of this month.

Deleon Guerrero said that Cabrera and Lizama are expected to appear at the commission's public session on June 8 while the remaining two days—June 9 and 10—are for executive members' discussion.

The commission's decision—whether to reaffirm NMC's accreditation, place it on continued show-cause status, or place it under another sanction—is ex-

pected on the first week of July.

The commission gave NMC only two months to address 10 recommendations after affirming its show-cause sanction against the college in January 2011.

Despite this short period, Deleon Guerrero said the college was able to address and rectify all deficiencies cited by the visiting team.

"We have less time and we did more work. That was really a testament to the commitment of everyone at NMC because what we put together in two

months normally takes an institution about a year. So we're very proud and confident about the report we submitted," he told *Saipan Tribune*.

Comprehensive evaluation

Deleon Guerrero said that NMC has begun implementing a comprehensive evaluation system for instructors and has linked program review with budgeting so if budget cuts are implemented next fiscal year, NMC will be able to absorb the cuts in aligning its priorities, mission, and

strategic plans.

"Anyone in education will tell you that good learning, good education is a result of good teaching. We are pioneering a very comprehensive evaluation system for instructors which will include portfolio, peer evaluation, among other things," he said.

Although the Board of Regents has yet to hire a new college president, Deleon Guerrero is optimistic that the commission will understand the unique circumstances that surround the college, which offers a non-competitive salary.

He said the board is taking the

selection seriously and is showing due diligence to make sure it selects a qualified chief executive officer.

"It is important to have a CEO as soon as possible. But even more important is to have a right CEO for the college," he said.

Theater to screen 'Oba: The Last Samurai' anew on Saipan

By **CLARISSA V. DAVID**
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REPORTER

Moviegoers who were not able to watch *Oba: The Last Samurai* when it premiered on Saipan in January will have a chance to do so this month.

Aya Matsumoto of Pacific Eagle Enterprises announced that the film about a Japanese soldier during the World War II Battle of the Marianas will be shown at Hollywood Theaters beginning May 27.

"I encourage the community to watch this wonderful movie which comes with English subtitles," she said.

Oba: The Last Samurai chronicles the experience of Capt. Sakae Oba, who led one of the last remaining organized units of Japanese soldiers on Saipan. He was popularly known as "The Fox" by American soldiers for his stealth and unpredictability.

Oba and the other soldiers under his command continued their battle and employed guerilla-style raids before they surrendered in December 1945, 512 days after the official surrender of Japan to U.S. forces on July 7, 1944.

The movie, produced by Nippon Television Network and directed by Hideyuki Hirayama, is based on the novel written by Don Jones, a former U.S. Marine stationed on Saipan.

Matsumoto said they decided to have the movie shown on Saipan since only a limited number of people were able to watch it during the by-invitation-only screenings on Jan. 31.

The screenings were attended by Hirayama, Japanese actors

Yutaka Takenouchi and Takayuki Yamada, executive producer Seiji Okuda, and special effects director Katsuo Onoue.

Matsumoto disclosed that the showing of *Oba: The Last Samurai* almost didn't push through because Hollywood Theaters could not afford the high cost of freight for the film.

"That's why we really thank the Hotel Association of the Northern Mariana Islands, which agreed to sponsor the showing of the movie with Pacific Eagle," she told *Saipan Tribune*.

According to Matsumoto, *Oba: the Last Samurai* is an important movie as it features the island of Saipan and gives a historical account of events that occurred during the war.

"Showing the movie on island is also an opportunity to help our tourism industry because we can invite our neighbors from Guam to watch it here," she added.

Matsumoto said that, according to Hollywood Theaters, the number of days that the movie will be shown will depend on the reception of moviegoers.

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Man, 61, arrested for alleged sexual assault of minor

» Judge imposes \$100,000 cash bail

Police arrested on Tuesday in Tanapag a 61-year-old man who allegedly repeatedly sexually assaulted a female minor.

Jose Ilo Santos, also known as Grandpa Ping, was arrested for sexual

assault in the first degree.

At yesterday's hearing, Superior Court associate judge David Wiseman imposed a \$100,000 cash bail for the defendant's temporary release.

Preliminary hearing will be on

May 25.

Detective Patrick Sablan stated in his report that, on Monday a police officer responded to Tanapag after receiving a report about a student who was allegedly sexually assaulted.

Sablan said the girl explained that Santos would give her money

after sexually abusing her. The defendant would instruct her not to tell her mother because she would be very upset.

The detective said a doctor at the Commonwealth Health Center examined the girl on Monday and confirmed the abuse. *(Ferdie de la Torre)*

TINIAN

From Page 1

Neo Gold Wings chairman and chief executive officer Joseph Hyun and NGP vice chair Kwi Dong Woo led the 14-member investor delegation, along with their staffers.

Hyun said once they settle issues related to their public land lease and permits, they may be able to start construction projects within the year.

The group met with Lt. Gov. Eloy S. Inos, Tinian Mayor Ramon Dela Cruz, Public Lands Secretary Oscar Babauta, Marianas Visitors Authority managing director Perry Tenorio, and other CNMI officials in one of the conference rooms at the Department of Public Health yesterday afternoon.

Inos said the Fitial administration is glad that Neo Gold Wings is back, "stronger" than before.

He asked Neo Gold Wings and its investment partners to accelerate the construction of the project.

Among the investors that Neo Gold Wings is partnering with are Hyundai IT Co. Ltd., KDA Group of China, German Hacker, England Vitaller, Woo Dy IT National Co. Ltd., Lusenes Real Estate Co. Ltd., and Beijing Huagao Yongdao Investment Consulting Co. Ltd.

Land lease issues

DPL's Babauta said he and Neo Gold Wings officials will be meeting today to talk about the investor's public land lease, which was terminated because of unpaid land leases.

He said DPL will decide whether to reinstate the already-terminated land lease or negotiate a new one that will have to get the nod of the Legislature.

Neo Gold Wings's land lease payment arrears amount to some \$173,000 as of May 31.

They abandoned their leased land, until DPL terminated the lease. Neo Gold Wings came back this year, telling DPL about their plans.

Hyun told reporters that Neo Gold Wings will be paying their unpaid land

leases to DPL.

DPL is also requiring Neo Gold Wings to make a one-year advance lease payment and a \$3 million security deposit.

The decision on these matters will be known today.

Tinian Mayor Dela Cruz, for his part, said this is an "exciting time for Tinian" and the CNMI, citing the foreign investors that have come forward to invest on the islands.

The group will also be visiting Tinian today.

At the meeting yesterday, Neo Gold Wings' Hyun and Beijing Huagao Yongdao Investment Consulting Co. Ltd. managing director and chief consultant Fuming Huang signed a memorandum of understanding for the construction of close to 800 cottages on Tinian as part of their project.

The first of the two-phased project includes the construction of a 36-hole golf course and close to 800 cottages. The second phase includes a hotel and casino and a theme park.



HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

Lt. Gov. Eloy S. Inos and Tinian Mayor Ramon Dela Cruz pose with Neo Gold Wings Paradise chairman and CEO Joseph Hyun and other partner investors for a \$1.6 billion to \$3 billion casino resort project on Tinian, during a ceremony yesterday afternoon.

ETC BILL

From Page 1

"re-strategize" because of Senate Bill 17-68, which intends to suspend the ETC program when government work hours are below the regular 80 hours per pay period.

The bill now awaits the governor's signature.

"The ETC program had been our primary avenue for our funding and that window of opportunity is almost closed," he told *Saipan Tribune* after the Saipan Pacific Winds Concert Band's show at the American Memorial Park Sunday.

DeWitt said they will have to rely on direct solicitations, particularly from private companies on island.

According to DeWitt, they are also looking at obtaining funding from off-island sources.

The band needs to come up with \$200,000 to send all band members to the Olympic Games, slated from July 27 to Aug. 12, 2012. When the band performed at the 2008 Olympics in Beijing, only eight students were able to join the trip due to funding issues.

Besides performing at the Olympic Games, DeWitt disclosed that the band will also perform in other high profile venues such as the Westminster Abbey. They also plan to visit Paris and Vienna.

"We'll be in an educational tour so that band members will be able to see the origin of Western music and get to play with some great artists," he added.

So far, the band has raised some \$5,000 through various fundraising activities. DeWitt said they also received financial pledges from Education Commissioner Rita Sablan and Lt. Gov. Eloy S. Inos amounting to \$25,000.

"We're getting there in terms of raising funds for our trip," he added.

The band conductor said they plan to hold a fundraising concert on June 8 at the SSHS cafeteria. Concert admission is \$2 each.

The Manta Ray Band, the only high school musical program in the Commonwealth, has won awards at the Tumon Bay Musical Festival in Guam and performed in New York City and the Sydney Opera House in Australia.

To donate to the band's London trip, contact DeWitt at 237-3722 or at will-dewitt@aol.com.

CASINO

From Page 1

Manglona, at the same time, will introduce a resolution authorizing the Senate legal counsel to represent the Senate in a legal action should the Saipan delegation passes the controversial casino bill.

The Senate president describes the passage of the local bill as an "attempt to subvert the Commonwealth Constitution."

Manglona, after consulting the Senate legal counsel, said he's aware that the local casino bill violates Article 21 of the Commonwealth Constitution. This provision states: "Gambling is prohibited in the Northern Mariana Islands except as provided by Commonwealth law or established through initiative in the Commonwealth or in any senatorial district."

"The Senate will bring legal action in the event the Saipan and Northern Islands Legislative Delegation passes this law," Manglona said in a one-page letter to Tebuteb yesterday.

Tebuteb said he will be asking delegation members in today's session on what they intend to do with Rep. Stanley Torres' (Ind-Saipan) House Local Bill 17-44.

Torres and Rep. Froilan Tenorio (Cov-Saipan) separately said they welcome a court challenge to the local casino bill.

The bill does not need to go to the Senate for action. Once the 21-member delegation passes the bill, it goes straight to the governor, who supports

casino gambling on Saipan.

The Senate wants Saipan voters to decide on the issue. The Senate killed Tenorio's House bill on Saipan casino operations last year.

"We respectfully disagree with SNILD, if indeed you and your members are convinced a local law permitting gambling on Saipan will withstand a court challenge," Manglona told Tebuteb.

Manglona cited journals from the 2nd Constitutional Convention, which he said clearly represent that convention members did consider permitting senatorial delegations to pass local laws allowing gambling in their districts.

This was also stated in Manglona's resolution, which has yet to be numbered and pre-filed.

He said members of the 2nd Constitutional Convention, after debating an amendment that included specific language to permit gambling by "Commonwealth or local law," withdrew the "local law" language and passed Article 21 as it is written today.

"It is our hope that SNILD will consider a voter initiative as the proper, constitutionally permissible avenue to gaming legalization," Manglona said.

In the alternative, the Senate stands committed to pass a Commonwealth-wide law legalizing gaming on Saipan by collecting signatures from 50.1 percent of all voters on Saipan.

"While we seek every opportunity to avoid legal action, if SNILD chooses to pass HLB 17-44, it will be the only alternative to protect the Commonwealth Constitution," the Senate president added.

FEDERALIZATION

From Page 1

Ron Valencia. Their visit is part of the preparation for the hearing this summer.

The visitors, however, could not say when the U.S. Department of Homeland Security will issue the CNMI-only transitional worker regulations—with barely six months to go before foreign workers' CNMI-issued umbrella permits expire.

Schwalbach, from the office of CNMI Delegate Gregorio Kilili Sablan, said that, until Subcommittee chair John Fleming makes a decision, July is still a "tentative" schedule.

The U.S. House Subcommittee on Fisheries, Wildlife, Oceans and Insular Affairs has jurisdiction over the CNMI and other U.S. insular areas.

CNMI lawmakers took turns asking the congressional staffers on a host of issues related to the implementation of the federalization law or U.S. Public Law 110-229, but many of their responses pointed to the hearing in Washington, D.C.

Senate Vice President Jude Hofscheider (R-Tinian) said he is grateful that the congressional staffers made the visit to directly hear local lawmakers' concerns on PL 110-229, with the hope that these concerns will be addressed by Congress.

Senate President Paul Manglona (Ind-Rota) said the Senate will provide testimony at the hearing.

He and Hofscheider said the hearing will give the CNMI an opportunity to share their concerns about the imple-

mentation of PL 110-229 since it came into effect on Nov. 28, 2009.

At the request of the congressional staffers, their meeting with local lawmakers yesterday morning was behind closed doors in the Senate chamber on Capital Hill.

They also met with Lt. Gov. Eloy S. Inos in the afternoon.

Inos, in an interview, said he was not informed about a congressional hearing. He also inquired about the issuance of the worker regulations.

The local lawmakers also asked the congressional staffers about the CNMI Senate recommendation on the status of long-term foreign workers, Delegate Gregorio Kilili Sablan's bill on the status of four specific groups of people in the CNMI, the Marianas Trench Marine Monument, submerged lands, the need to reprogram Section 702 funds to buy a CT scan for the hospital, and the inclusion of China and Russia in the Guam-CNMI visa waiver program.

House Speaker Eli Cabrera (R-Saipan), Rep. Ray Tebuteb (R-Saipan), Rep. Trenton Conner (R-Tinian), Sen. Ralph Torres (R-Saipan), Sen. Frank Cruz (R-Tinian), and Sen. Henry San Nicolas (Cov-Tinian) were also at the meeting.

The congressional staffers, who arrived Tuesday night, were also scheduled to visit the Commonwealth Health Center's dialysis center and meet with the Saipan Chamber of Commerce, the Federal Labor Ombudsman's Office and other federal and local agencies. They are set to leave Saipan today.

The team was supposed to visit Saipan in March but had to postpone that trip in the wake of the March 11 Japan disasters.

Patient visits at CHC down last year

By **MONETH G. DEPOSA**
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REPORTER

The Commonwealth Health

Auto mechanic gets 33 days for injuring woman in car collision

The Superior Court imposed yesterday a 33-day prison sentence on an auto mechanic who was found guilty of traffic charges when his pickup truck collided with a sedan that left its female driver with a cut to the forehead in the early morning hours of Aug. 30, 2009.

Associate Judge Ramona V. Manglona ordered Sandy Bernardo Quemado to spend 30 days in jail for reckless driving with bodily injury and three days for driving while under the influence of alcohol.

No date was set for Quemado to begin serving his sentence, as the court expects his counsel, assistant public defender Richard C. Miller, to submit a motion to stay the imposition of sentence.

Quemado was directed to pay a total of \$600 fine. His driver's license was suspended for 30 days and he will be placed on probation for 18 months. He will also be required to perform 100 hours of community service, attend the Alcohol Information Class, pay \$100 tuition to Catholic Social Services, and pay a \$100 probation fee and \$25 court assessment fee.

Quemado will also pay restitution to the female driver, Maria D. Aguon, in an amount to be determined at a hearing on June 1, 2011.

Judge Manglona found Quemado guilty on March 31, 2011, after a bench trial that began on March 28, 2011.

Center had a total of 74,112 patient visits from January to December 2010—down from the 90,000 who were accom-

modated in 2009 and the over 100,000 seen in 2008.

Esther Muña, deputy health chief and acting financial services administrator, said this decrease in the number of hospital patients is expected to continue. "The trend we're seeing is that it is going down. Many of the patients are going to the private clinics and not having enough physicians at CHC are among the factors," she said.

The hospital currently has 24 physicians—almost all of them with long-term contracts. Muña said that recruitment is ongoing for more doctors. "Right now, as far as doctors in inpatient, I think we could be better...but we have enough physicians to treat them. I think

there's an improvement on the amount of doctors and we're working on the quality of our services," she said.

For the long term, Muña said she prefers to see an increase in the number of outpatient visits rather than in-patient visits. "We want to manage patient illnesses in an outpatient setting rather than provide a much more costly treatment because patients have already become too sick when they are admitted," she said.

Medicaid coverage

Almost half of CHC's patients last year were Medicaid clients.

This year, from January 2011 to date, 48 percent of total hospital visits is covered by Med-

icaid, 12 percent is covered by government insurance carrier Aetna Global, and 28 percent does not have any insurance at all. Only 10 percent is shouldered by Medicare.

While Medicaid patients are still being seen in private clinics, Muña said there are those who are not covered by Medicaid and have no insurance at all.

"This is the group that I worry about and we are noticing more of them being admitted rather than as outpatients," she said.

Public Health Secretary Joseph Kevin Villagomez earlier noted a significant increase in the number of Medicaid clients—from only 11,000 three years ago to about 15,000 to date. He blamed this on the increasing number of people who are dropping their insurance plans and the work hour cuts being implemented in both

government and private sectors since last fiscal year.

The Medicaid program paid the Commonwealth Health Center \$2.1 million in fiscal year 2010, while \$10.8 million went to local providers including private clinics, pharmacists, and dental offices.

Muna said that timely reimbursements from Medicaid, Medicare, and insurance companies is important to keep hospital services going.

"CHC is paid by reimbursement. This means we'd have to spend more funds before we see any of it returned and it is worse when payments are late or not made at all," she said.

Medicaid is a federal/state program funded by both the federal and states revenues. Current matching ratio is 45 percent local government, 55 percent federal government.

IMMIGRATION LAW

Bruce L. Mailman
Maya B. Kara

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Survey seeks to verify importance of fishing in Marianas

By **CLARISSA V. DAVID**
clarissa_david@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

At least 84 local fishermen have so far completed a survey that aims to understand the importance of fishing across the Mariana Archipelago.

The Mariana Archipelago Cost-Earnings Survey 2011, launched Monday night at the Azucena Room of the Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan in Garapan, was attended by some 100 members of the local fishing community.

"The purpose of the survey is to better understand the economic, social, and cultural importance of boat-based fishing across the Mariana Archipelago," said Justin Hospital, National Oceanic and Atmo-

spheric Administration Fisheries in Honolulu.

Hospital designed the survey

with the Pacific Islands Fisheries Group, a nonprofit organization that aims to facilitate com-

munication and participation among all marine resource users to support sound resource use,

management, research, conservation, and education.

Created in 2005, PIFG has six board members, two advisers, and about 1,400 fishermen members who have signed up through their website, www.fishtoday.org.

"We felt that fishermen were not having a voice in what was happening in their environment," Kendall J. H. Wong of PIFG told *Saipan Tribune*. "We wanted to actually facilitate this communication between fishermen and government."

According to Hospital, the survey takes into account fishing experiences, market participation, levels of investment, fishing expenditures, and attitudes and perception of current fishery issues.

Hospital said the survey will provide important baseline information that will allow policy makers to better consider the implications of any future fisheries management decision or legislation.

"In essence, the survey gives the fishing community a stron-

ger voice by allowing us to better understand what boat-based fishing means to the fishermen and community of the Mariana Archipelago," he added.

Clay Tam of PIFG said they are coordinating with the CNMI Division of Fish and Wildlife, which helped spread the word out to the fishing community and organize Monday's event that he described as "a whole new approach" to data gathering.

"This way, we felt that if we could bring the fishermen all together, if they have questions especially, we could answer it and have it centralized and vocalized at one meeting," he added.

Wong said they have about 500 survey forms that need to be completed by fishermen from the CNMI and Guam. A similar survey was conducted in Hawaii last year.

Wong and Hospital said they aim to finish the survey by the end of summer or sometime between August and September.



CLARISSA V. DAVID

From right, economist Justin Hospital of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration; Pacific Islands Fisheries Group's James Borja, Kendall Wong, Ray Roberto, and Clay Tam during the launch of the Mariana Archipelago Cost-Earnings Survey 2011 Monday night at Fiesta Resort & Spa.

Current marine conservation plan to expire; new one in the works

The Division of Fish and Wildlife under the Department of Lands and Natural Resources recently held meetings on Saipan, Tinian, and Rota as part of efforts to develop a marine conservation plan.

Richard Seman, aquatic education specialist, said they solicited input and participation from various stakeholders to develop the three-year plan for the CNMI.

The current marine conservation plan is expected to expire by October 2011.

"The marine conservation plan is composed of various projects that we can develop but it has to directly relate with our marine resources," Seman told *Saipan Tri-*

bune after the meeting held at the Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-Purpose Center Thursday night.

Seman said these projects involve marine education, enforcement, research, and community development.

According to Seman, they have until June 14 to submit the plan to the federal government, which will deliberate and approve the plan.

The meetings also discussed updates on the Marianas Trench National Marine Monument. Seman said the department has received a \$200,000 grant to develop the architectural and engineering design for the marine monument's visitor's center. (Clarissa V. David)

\$8K approved for Tinian medical referral, subsistence allowance

The Tinian and Aguihan Legislative Delegation passed yesterday a bill appropriating \$8,000 for the medical referral and monthly subsistence allowance of Tinian patients. The funding comes from poker and pachinko license fees collected on Tinian.

House Local Bill 17-47, introduced by Rep. Trenton Conner (R-Tinian), passed by a vote of 4-0. It now goes to the governor for action.

Under the bill, \$4,000 will go to medical referral patients and the other \$4,000 will be for the monthly subsistence allowance of patients on dialysis, with cancer, multiple sclerosis, post cervical and vascular accident patients, among other things.

The Tinian delegation also passed Senate Vice President

Jude Hofschneider's (R-Tinian) resolution urging Mayor Ramon Dela Cruz to allocate \$1 million approved by a previous law for the repair of government facilities on Tinian.

The resolution, which also passed by a vote of 4-0, asks the mayor to use \$10,000 of the \$1 million to repair and renovate the Broadway Estates basketball court.

They also asked that another \$10,000 be used to repair and renovate the San Jose Public Cemetery; \$25,000 to repair school bus stops; \$50,000 to renovate the Little League baseball field's bleachers, announcer's booth, dugout and lighting fixtures; \$50,000 to repair the Senior Citizens' Center; and \$250,000 to repair the Tinian Health Center. (Haidee V. Eugenio)

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FOR QUESTIONING DOUBLE-DIPPING PROBE

Fund sues ex-SHEFA consultants Torres and Dris

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
ferdie_deltorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Northern Mariana Islands Retirement Fund is suing two

'No merit in rape case suspect's motion to withdraw guilty plea'

An attempt by a suspect in the Kagman rape case to withdraw his guilty plea is without merit and the court should move ahead with his sentencing, according to the Office of the Attorney General.

Assistant attorney general Brian D. Gallagher asked the Superior Court to deny suspect Angel Jess Santos' motion to withdraw his guilty plea, and sentence him in accordance with the negotiated plea agreement.

Gallagher said Santos fails to argue that the plea was anything other than knowing, voluntary, and intelligent. Gallagher said there is no any allegation that the defendant is not getting the benefit of the bargain.

"Instead, mixed along with some baseless allegations regarding the motives of the CNMI prosecutors, the defendant bases his contention on the fact that he does not want to be sentenced," he said.

Without a reasonable, legal reason for withdrawal, Gallagher said, the court should deny Santos' motion.

The fact that Santos is not happy with the progress of the prosecution of his three alleged co-conspirators is not a valid reason to withdraw a plea, Gallagher added.

Santos, through counsel Joseph James Norita Camacho, recently filed the motion to withdraw his guilty plea as the

former consultants of the Saipan Higher Education Financial Assistance who had questioned the authority of the Fund and its administrative hearing officer to

prosecution has not re-filed the charges against his three other co-defendants until now.

"I believe that the three other suspects were the most culpable and did the most damage and harm to the victim, yet the Office of the Attorney General has not moved on re-filing the charges against the three other suspects," said Santos in his declaration.

Camacho said that because of all the mishandling in this case, it appears now that no one at the OAG wants to prosecute this case for fear of losing the case and tarnishing their "imaginary winning streak."

Santos has been in detention since his arrest on June 18, 2010. He immediately pleaded guilty to the charge of conspiracy to commit sexual assault in the first degree as part of a plea agreement.

In December 2010, the OAG moved to dismiss without prejudice the case against Joseph Camacho Jr., Alfred P. Hocog, and Ivan Jones Castro. The court granted the motion.

A then 16-year-old Kagman student was walking toward Kagman High School on June 16, 2010, when four men accosted her, beat her up, and raped her at Tank Beach.

Santos confessed to being one of the four but claimed he only served as a lookout as one of them raped her. *(Ferdie de la Torre)*

issue subpoenas.

The Fund wants the Superior Court to declare that it has the statutory authority to gather information necessary to conduct its operations. That authority, the Fund said, includes interrogatories, requests for production of documents, taking depositions, and compelling attendance at depositions, hearings, and administrative proceedings.

The Fund also asked the court to issue an order enforcing the deposition subpoenas previously issued and served upon ex-SHEFA consultants William S. Torres and Jesusa B. Dris, and other third parties: former SHEFA board chair Felicidad T. Ogumoro and former Saipan

mayor Juan B. Tudela.

The Fund wants the court to compel Torres, Dris, Ogumoro, and Tudela to attend their depositions at the Fund's offices.

The Office of the Public Auditor had instructed the Fund in April 2008 to look into whether Torres and Dris, both retirees, were double-dipping—collecting their pension payments and drawing salaries from the government. Double-dipping is prohibited under CNMI retirement law.

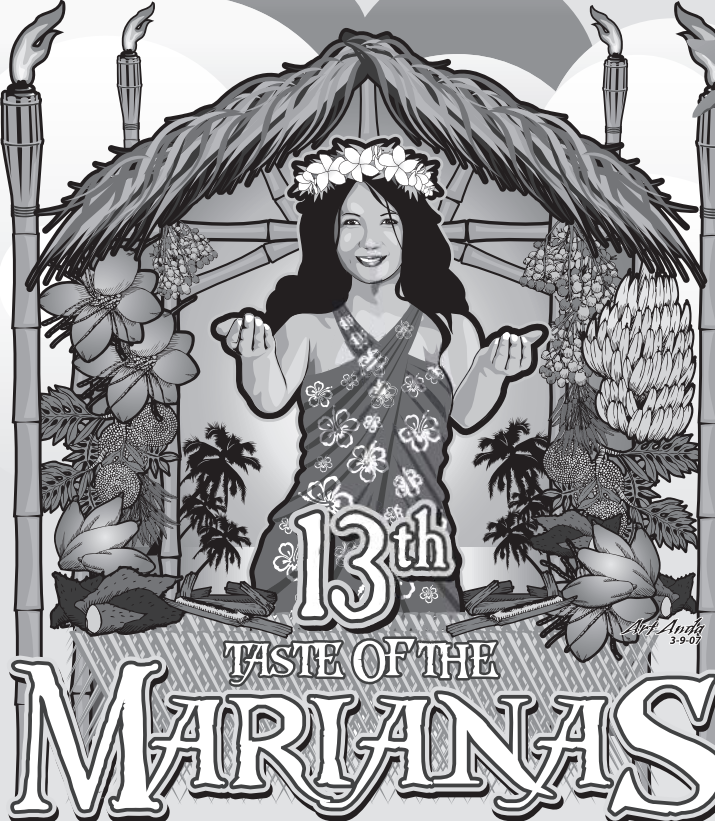
According to the lawsuit filed by Fund lawyers Christopher M. Timmons and Carolyn M. Kern, Fund hearing officer Edward Manibusan had subpoenaed Torres, Dris, Ogumoro, and Tudela.

Manibusan then ordered that the proceedings be stayed and that the Fund seek a court judgment of the Fund's discovery and subpoena power.

Ogumoro and Tudela agreed to be bound by the court's decision in this matter to avoid being named as defendants in the lawsuit.

Timmons and Kern asserted that in order for the Fund Board to meet its fiduciary duty to protect and preserve the trust, it must, through the administrator, investigate allegations of fraud and abuse, such as complaints and reports of "double-dipping" by retirees.

The lawyers said the Retirement Fund Act grants broad powers to the Fund to gather information necessary for its operation and to do all things necessary to the full exercise of those powers.



13th
TASTE OF THE MARIANAS
MAY 2011
INTERNATIONAL FOOD FESTIVAL AND BEER GARDEN
AMERICAN MEMORIAL PARK
MAY 7, 14, 21 & 28, 2011

Saturday, May 21, 2011

6:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.	Saipan Music & Dance
7:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.	Alana la
8:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.	Pua Hinano
9:00 p.m. – 9:30 p.m.	Black Sands
9:30 p.m. – 10:00 p.m.	Tattoo

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| 3. Hyatt Regency Hotel Saipan | 11. Hula Girl/3's |
| 4. Pacific Islands Club | 12. Thai House Restaurant |
| 5. Canton Restaurant | 13. Poon's Restaurant |
| 6. Saipan World Resort | 14. Tropical Chill (Ty & Tia) |
| 7. Sierra Pearl Shakes | 15. Coral Ocean Point |
| 8. Capricciosa & Tony Roma's | |

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2011 CNMI TOURISM MONTH

"Tourism is Everybody's Business"

"Hafa Adai Tirow" Spirit Island Wear Fridays

Every Friday in May is Hafa Adai Tirow Spirit Island Wear day! Show your island pride and culture by wearing island attire or local traditional wear. Post your photos on Facebook at "Hafa Adai Tirow Spirit Island Wear of the Northern Mariana Islands" and get a chance to win Taste of the Marianas tokens and a Tourism Month t-shirt; one lucky winner per week will be chosen from all who post photos.

Taste of the Marianas International Food Festival & Beer Garden

This highly anticipated weekly celebration will be held every Saturday in May at American Memorial Park from 6-10 p.m. The event will feature delicious local and international cuisine sold by over 15 hotel and local restaurants. Enjoy the talent of local and international performers with live entertainment all evening. The event will feature nightly competitions, as well as trivia questions aimed at promoting tourism awareness.

"My Marianas" Community Outreach Presentation

Get up-to-date on the latest industry trends and upcoming tourism events during this picturesque slideshow on Saturday evenings at the Taste of the Marianas. Tourism Month informational packages will also be available on-site.

On-the-Street Interviews

MVA turns the spotlight on you as random community members are given an opportunity to share their views on various tourism topics in the Tourism Tuesday feature of the Saipan Tribune.

Radio Tourism Trivia

Call in with the correct answer for your chance to win tokens for the Taste of the Marianas and Tourism Month T-shirts. "Did You Know?" and "Fun Facts about Tourism in the Northern Marianas" will be aired regularly throughout the month on Power 99 (99.5 FM), KZMI (103.9 FM) and KKMP (1440 AM and 92.1 FM).

Taste of the Marianas Competitions

Bartender Cocktail Competition 6:30 pm



PUBLIC NOTICE



NORTHERN MARIANAS COLLEGE

Board of Regents

Special Board Meeting

Board of Regents Conference Room, NMC Saipan Campus
Friday, May 20, 2011
10am

AGENDA

- PRELIMINARY MATTERS
 - Roll Call
 - Review and Adoption of Agenda
- PUBLIC COMMENTS
- OLD BUSINESS
 - Presidential Search
- NEW BUSINESS
 - Evaluation Instrument for Interim President
 - OMB
- EXECUTIVE SESSION
(At any time during the scheduled meeting the Board of Regents may be required to enter into executive session to discuss matters deemed privileged and confidential)
- ADJOURNMENT

/s/ Regent Juan T. Lizama
Chairperson, Board of Regents

May 19, 2011
Date

UOG inks accord on research with SPC

GUAM—University of Guam president Robert A. Underwood signed on May 6 a memorandum of agreement with the Secretariat of the Pacific Community to maximize the impact and outcomes of research and outreach projects produced by both organizations in the broad areas of scientific research, socio-economic development, and health.

"This opens a new level of collaboration with scientists throughout the South Pacific," said Underwood. "Instead of approaching institutions one by one, we can network with all the institutions and organizations within the SPC framework on issues like island sustainability, renewable energy, population, agriculture, and the environment."

SPC is a Pacific-based, international intergovernmental organization established by treaty under the Canberra Agreement on Feb. 6, 1947. It has 26 members, composed of 22 Pacific Island countries and territories and four metropolitan members: Australia, France, New Zealand, and the United States of America. These members govern and guide SPC in its work toward achieving a secure and prosperous Pacific region



UOG
University of Guam president Robert A. Underwood shakes hands with Amena V Yauvoli, manager of the Secretariat of the Pacific Community North Pacific Regional Office, after the signing of the memorandum of agreement on May 6, 2011.

with healthy and well-educated people who are able to manage their resources according to environmentally and socially sustainable principles. SPC's headquarters is in Noumea, New Caledonia. It also has regional offices in Fiji, Federated States of Micronesia, and project offices throughout the Pacific region.

"The benefits and outcomes gained by working together are

far greater than those possible through our individual efforts," said Underwood.

SPC and UOG have together identified eight themes on which to focus collaborative efforts over the next four years: (1) communication for behavior and social change; (2) higher education; (3) bio-security [invasive species ecology]; (4) diagnostic laboratory assistance;

(5) biomedical sciences; (6) natural resources ecology including soils, forestry, agriculture and watershed restoration; (7) regional health communications and telecommunications; and (8) workforce development.

After the initial four-year period, the memorandum of agreement will be reviewed by both organizations every two years. (UOG)

Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

May 19, 1999

Chamber, DOLI meet but no diatribe

The Saipan Chamber of Commerce yesterday expressed optimism that the concerns raised by its members in connection with the implementation of The Resident Workers Fair Compensation Act will be taken into consideration by the CNMI government. Chamber officers met with Gov. Pedro P. Tenorio, Labor Secretary Mark Zachares, key leaders of the legislature and the Attorney General's Office for three hours during which they discussed the proposed amendments to the implementing rules and regulations of Public Law 11-74. The meeting was arranged by Rep. Oscar Babauta, chair of the House Committee on Commerce and Tourism. However, during the consultation meeting there was no mention of the complaints made by the Chamber members on the Department of Labor and Immigration which include inefficiency, incompetence, and prejudice.

Group slams 'sanctions' against CNMI

A Virginia-based interest group has defended the Northern Marianas from an attempt in the Congress to remove the tariff-free privilege on its garment products, saying the move is tantamount to economic sanctions against a U.S. territory. The National Legal and Policy Center said the pending proposal is influenced by other interest groups working against the Commonwealth, which have launched efforts to undermine the economic success on the island. "Economic sanctions are applied against foreign countries. I am especially troubled by the implication of your legislation, namely that CNMI is not really a part of the United States and its economic vibrancy is somehow at the expense of real Americans," said its president Peter Flaherty, in a letter to Sen. Spencer Abraham.

May 19, 2000

AGO asks court to stop lawyer from practicing in CNMI

The Attorney General's Office yesterday asked the Superior Court to stop lawyer Bruce Jorgensen from engaging in what it said unauthorized practice of law in the Commonwealth. Jorgensen is not a member of the CNMI Bar Association, but is admitted to practice before the U.S. District Court for the Northern Mariana Islands. In a motion for preliminary injunction, assistant attorney General David Sosebee said allowing Jorgensen to practice law in the Commonwealth will result in immediate and irreparable harm to the Commonwealth and its citizens. However, Jorgensen said that Superior Court Presiding Judge Edward Manibusan has thrown out the civil suit filed by Sosebee.

PSS receives website funds

The U.S. National Center of Education Statistics this week issued a \$20,000 check to the Public School System for the enhancement of its recruitment and information website meant to lure more teachers into exploring career opportunities in the CNMI. The existing PSS website is currently lacking data to give non-CNMI residents a clear picture of the state of the local public school system. CNMI and another school in California are only two among 56 states and insular areas that have been granted the web development contract for two consecutive years.

May 19, 2003

CNMI Medicaid gets \$348K refund

ReporterThe CNMI Medicaid program will get a refund of \$348,000 from Queens Medical Center following findings that the Honolulu-based institution had overcharged Medicaid patients from the Commonwealth. Medicaid administrator Helen Sablan said in a media interview Friday that her office has received \$267,627 reimbursement from QMC. "We're still waiting for \$80,540 more," she added. Sablan said the QMC found out about the CNMI overpayment upon reading the revised CNMI General Waiver and Operational Plan, which carries a provision that the CNMI Medicaid Agency pays for services at the rate paid by the local Medicaid program.

BOE rejects Babauta's MOU on teacher salary

The Board of Education rejected Friday the Governor's Office's proposed memorandum of understanding that would require the Public School System to use the promised increase in its budget for teachers' salary increases. The board, however, wants the Executive Branch to still give the PSS the additional budget, which amounts to slightly over \$1 million. According to BOE vice chair Roman Benavente, the board wants the additional budget but it does not want to commit to the requirement embodied in the proposed MOU.

**PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT**

**INVITATION TO BID
ITB11-DPS-054 (A)(B)(C)**

SUBMISSION / OPENING DATE: DATE: JUNE 07, 2011 • TIME: 10:00 A.M.

"PURCHASE OF ONE (1) 2011 MODEL V6 150 HP OUTBOARD MOTOR ENGINE WITH CLOCKWISE ROTATION, PURCHASE OF ONE (1) 2011 MODEL V6 150 HP OUTBOARD MOTOR ENGINE WITH COUNTER CLOCKWISE ROTATION AND PURCHASE OF ONE (1) 2010/2011 MODEL TWIN VOLVO PENTA D3-200 HP INBOARD DIESEL ENGINES FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY – BOATING SAFETY SECTION"

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE PICKED-UP AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR, DIVISION OF PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY, LOWER BASE DR., SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

QUESTIONS REGARDING THIS ITB IS DUE NO LATER THAN **CLOSE OF BUSINESS, MAY 24, 2011** AND SHOULD BE ADDRESSED TO CAPTAIN ANICETO T. OGUMORO, BOATING LAW ADMINISTRATION BY FAX TO (670) 664-9186.

THIS IS A FEDERALLY FUNDED PROJECT; AS SUCH, LOCAL PREFERENCE IS NOT AVAILABLE BECAUSE ITS USE IS PROHIBITED BY FEDERAL LAW GRANTING FUNDING FOR THIS PROJECT.

/S/ RAMON C. MAFNAS
ACTING COMMISSIONER, DEPT. OF PUBLIC SAFETY

/S/ HERMAN S. SABLAN
DIRECTOR, P&S

**PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT**

**REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
RFP11-DEQ-088**

SUBMISSION DATE: JUNE 23, 2011 • TIME: 2:00 P.M.

"CONDUCT HISTORICAL RESEARCH FOR INFORMATION AND INVENTORY OF POTENTIAL UNEXPLODED ORDNANCE (UXO) SITES WITHIN SUBMERGED LANDS OF THE CNMI FOR THE DIVISION OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY"

THE SCOPE OF WORK FOR THIS PROJECT IS AVAILABLE AT THE DEQ OFFICE OR CAN BE RECEIVED ELECTRONICALLY BY E-MAIL REQUEST TO raymasga@deq.gov.mp.

QUESTIONS REGARDING THIS PROJECT MAY BE FAXED TO MR. RAY MASGA, MANAGER, SITE ASSESSMENT AND REMEDIATION BRANCH AT (670) 664-8540 OR BY E-MAIL TO raymasga@deq.gov.mp NO LATER THAN THE CLOSE OF BUSINESS, **JUNE 13, 2011**.

THIS IS A FEDERALLY FUNDED PROJECT; AS SUCH, LOCAL PREFERENCE IS NOT AVAILABLE BECAUSE ITS USE IS PROHIBITED BY FEDERAL LAW GRANTING FUNDING FOR THIS PROJECT.

/S/ FRANK M. RABAULIMAN
DIRECTOR, DEQ

/S/ HERMAN S. SABLAN
DIRECTOR, P&S

NOTICE OF ZONING BOARD PUBLIC HEARING

for Solar System Corporation

The public is invited to attend and provide comments at a Zoning Board public hearing on this Variance Request application. Mr. Naotaka Kagawa of Solar System Corporation would like to construct a Solar Power (Photovoltaic) Generation facility on Lot 032 A 01 in the area of As Matuis. This property is zoned as "Rural". This is just north of the former La Fiesta Mall and Gardenia Apartments along Chalan Pale Arnold Road. It is directly south of the Department of Public Safety Compound.

Date: Monday May 23rd, 2011

Time: 6:00 pm

Place: Gregorio T. Camacho Elementary School on Mamate Loop in the Village of San Roque

The above application may be viewed at the Zoning Office, 2nd Floor, Joeten Dandan Building, Saipan. Comments on the projects may be submitted orally or in writing at the public hearing. Written comments may also be submitted in writing to the Zoning Office no later than 4:30pm, May 20th, 2011. Written comments may be submitted via email to dwyatt@zoning.gov.mp, via US mail to Caller Box 10007, Saipan, MP 96950 or delivered to the Zoning Office, 2nd floor, Joeten Building, Dandan, Saipan.

For questions or access to materials to be considered at the public hearing, or if you require assistance, please contact Douglas Wyatt, at 234-9661. This notice is provided pursuant to Public Law 6-32, as amended (2 CMC 7201, et seq. & Division 3 of Title 10 CMC).

/s/ Diego C. Blanco, Board Chairman

The public is invited to attend and provide comments at a Zoning Board public hearing on this request for a Conditional Use Permit. Mr. Naotaka Kagawa of Solar System Corporation would like to construct a Solar Power (Photovoltaic) Generation facility on Lot 032 A 01 in the area of As Matuis. This property is zoned as "Rural". This is just north of the former La Fiesta Mall and Gardenia Apartments along Chalan Pale Arnold Road. It is directly south of the Department of Public Safety Compound.

DHS seeking bullet suppliers for US, Guam, NMI

GUAM—The Department of Homeland Security is looking for suppliers of more than 5.2 million 9 mm and .38 Special rounds a year for Guam, Hawaii, Northern Mariana Islands, and locations throughout the continental United States, according to a solicitation notice.

The indefinite delivery, indefinite quantity contract for ammunition supply will be for a one-year base period plus four optional periods of one year each, the department said in solicitation number HSCSS-

11-R-00001. The deadline for responses to the solicitation is June 6. Delivery destinations for the ammunition will be specified with each order but will be to "numerous" locations, the department said.

The department said it may issue more than one contract, each for a maximum of 14.75 million 9 mm rounds and/or 11 million .38 Special rounds over the five-year period. More information on the contracts is available at <https://www.fbo.gov/index?s=opportunity&mode=form&id=c217cb615>

c4b2e5c09805822fafc0b57&tab=core&cview=0. (guambuild-upnews.com)

HELP FOR JAPAN

IT&E donates \$5,000 to the NMI Chapter of the American Red Cross for the Japan relief efforts. In the picture, from left to right, are Veronica Acosta, Wireless Marketing supervisor, Rose Soledad, controller for IT&E; JD Tenorio, Emergency Services director, NMI Red Cross; and Bob Coldeen, board member, NMI Red Cross. **CONTRIBUTED PHOTO**



COMMUNITY BRIEFS

MHS Class of 1991 meeting

The Marianas High School Class of 1991 will be having a meeting on Friday, May 20, 2011, at 6:30pm at the 13 Fishermen's Pavilion to discuss the 20th reunion. **(PR)**

Five puppies up for adoption, fostering

There are five puppies at Paradise Island Animal Hospital that are ready for adoption. Three of them are black and brown. One is cream-colored and the other is white with a brown spot over each eye. Their ages range from 2-6 months and they are healthy and playful. In addition, PAWS needs foster families. If you're interested in fostering one or more of these puppies, contact PAWS at 285-PAWS. **(PR)**

One Economy, DOC to host 3 broadband townhall meetings

One Economy, CNMI Department of Commerce, BroadMap LLC, and the New America Foundation will be conducting townhall meetings to understand residents' attitudes toward broadband.

- Thursday, May 19, 2011, 6pm at the GTC Elementary School cafeteria, San Roque;
- Tuesday, May 24, 2011, 6:30pm at the Tinian Elementary School cafeteria, San Jose, Tinian
- Thursday, May 26, 2011, 6:30pm at the Round House, Songsong Village, Rota. **(PR)**

Appreciation dinner for elderly Palauans

The Palau Community Association Youth Club is sponsoring the PCA Senior Citizens Appreciation Dinner on Saturday May 21, from 5pm to midnight at the Garapan Central Park (Round House), Saipan. All Palauan senior citizens (55 years old and above) and their families in the CNMI are encouraged to attend the event. Come and celebrate with all PCA senior citizens with music, dance, and prizes. For more information, call any of the PCA officers: Rufino Aguon at 483-6232, Eileen (Motto) Kintol at 288-7538, Felisa Brel at 483-9053, or Bernice Ravell at 285-4845. **(PR)**

CUC now open on Saturdays

The Commonwealth Utilities Corp.'s payment section on the first floor of the Joeten Dandan building will now be open on Saturdays, from 8am to 12pm.

According to CUC, the Saturday hours are only for payment processing. All other customer service-related matters and inquiries will be addressed during regular business days and hours. **(CUC)**

Services to US armed forces

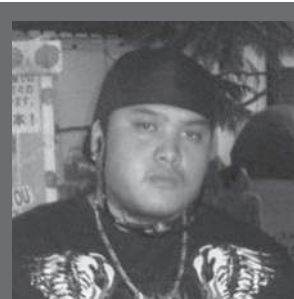
The American Red Cross-NMI Chapter is inviting all U.S. military service members—active, reserve, Guard, and veterans—to attend a "Health & Well Being Workshop" on Saturday, May 28, 2011, at the Pacific Islands Club's Charley's Cabaret.

The workshop, from 8:30am to 12pm, will feature:

- Red Cross "Get to Know Us" briefing
- Ruth Coleman of Veterans affairs
- VA clinic Medical Associates of the Pacific, LLC.
- VFW Post Commander

The workshop, breakfast, lunch, and park passes will be provided free of charge for all qualified military service members (DD-214). Military service members are allowed to bring two dependents.

For more information or to register call or email Le'ah A. Murphy, Red Cross SAF Coordinator, at 234-3459 or leah.murphy670@gmail.com. **(PR)**



BIRTHDAY SHOUTOUT

Happy 25th birthday to Raymond Mendoza! You are really very special, and deeply loved for what you do, so you are wished a happy birthday, with lots of pleasure all for you! I love you, sweetheart! Greetings come from Julz, Jiana, and Kierstin!

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



PUBLIC NOTICE

Pursuant to 1 CMC, Division 9, §9910, Governor Benigno R. Fitial and Lt. Governor Eloy S. Inos, through the NMI Retirement Fund Board of Trustees/Workers' Compensation Commission/Group Health & Life Insurance Trust Fund, are hereby giving notice that the Board of Trustees will hold its **Special meeting Friday, May 20, 2011 at 11:30 a.m.** at the **NMI Retirement Fund Conference Room, Saipan.**

AGENDA

- I. **PRELIMINARY MATTERS**
 - A. Call to Order
 - B. Roll Call
 - C. Adoption of Agenda
- II. **PUBLIC COMMENTS**
- III. **OLD BUSINESS**
 - A. New Asset Allocation Transition Update
- IV. **NEW BUSINESS**
 - A. Actuary Report
 - B. FY 2010 Financial Audit (Update)
 - C. Ad Hoc Committee
- V. **EXECUTIVE SESSION**
- VI. **MISCELLANEOUS**
 - A. Announcements
 - B. Next Meeting
 - C. Adjournment

/s/ **SIXTO K. IGISOMAR**
CHAIRMAN, BOARD OF TRUSTEES



Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
Office of the Secretary of Public Works
2nd Floor Joeten Commercial Building, Gualo Rai
Saipan, MP 96950



INVITATION FOR BIDS DPW11-IFB-011

SUGAR DOCK DREDGING IN SUSUPE

Governor Benigno R. Fitial and Lt. Governor Eloy S. Inos, through the Department of Public Works (DPW) are soliciting sealed bids for the Sugar Dock Dredging in Susupe, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The project package will be available on or after **May 12, 2011** at DPW Technical Services Division 1353 Mednilla Avenue Capitol Hill. A non-refundable payment of One Hundred Dollars (\$100.00) is required for each set. Payment must be made to the CNMI Treasurer and a receipt of payment must be presented when obtaining the Scope of Work at DPW Technical Services Division.

All interested bidders are also required to include Insurer Clearance Certification (ICC) in their bid packages in order to bid on this project. The ICC can be obtained at the Department of Commerce, Office of the Insurance Commissioner on Capitol Hill.

Bidding procedures shall be in full compliance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations, dated May 24, 2001. Preference is available to US Citizen as per Public Law 15-95 and as further amended by Public Law 15-118. Prospective bidders claiming for US Citizen preference are required to submit *P&S Form 100 (Revised 12/20/07)* with their sealed bids.

There will be a Pre-bid Conference for this project on **May 31, 2011**, 9:00 a.m. local time at the Division of Fish & Wildlife Conference Room. The Prospective bidders are encouraged to familiarize themselves with the site. All questions regarding this project must be submitted in writing no later than 4:30 p.m. local time on **June 7, 2011** to **Mr. Anthony A. Camacho, Acting Director** of Technical Services Division, DPW 1353 Mednilla Avenue Capitol Hill, Saipan, or faxed to (670) 234-3547 no later than 4:30 p.m.

Prospective bidders should examine and review the invitation for bids with care. If it should appear to a prospective bidder that the performance of the work under the contract or any of the matters relative thereto is not sufficiently described or explained in the invitation for bids, or that any discrepancy exists between different parts of the invitation for bids, or that the full intent of the invitation for bids is not clear, then the prospective bidder shall submit a written request for clarification no later than ten (10) working days before the scheduled bid opening at 4:30 pm to **Mr. Anthony A. Camacho, Acting Director of Technical Services Division**, 1353 Mednilla Avenue-Capitol Hill, Saipan or fax to (670) 234-3547.

The prospective bidder shall examine carefully the site of the proposed work and the invitation for bids before submitting a bid.

The Contracting Officer (CO) may, upon recommendation of the Contracting Officer's Technical Representative (COTR), issue an addendum notifying all prospective bidders known to have received an invitation for bids, or if issued after the deadline for submission of the notice of intention to bid, to those persons who submitted such notice, of any changes to the invitation for bids. The Department of Public Works will make every reasonable attempt to notify all persons who have obtained the invitation for bids from the Technical Services Division by telephone to pick up the addendum or if the CO chooses, the addendum may be mailed or delivered personally or by facsimile machine. If the bid proposal requires the acknowledgement of addenda, the prospective bidder shall indicate the date of each addendum in the space provided. **It shall be the prospective bidder's responsibility to confirm the existence of any addendum by telephoning the COTR at (670) 234-9828/38 no later than ten (10) working days before the scheduled bid opening.**

Sealed bids must be marked "DPW11-IFB-011". For bidders within the CNMI, an original and two copies of sealed bids must be submitted to the Director of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan, no later than 10:00 a.m. local time **June 10, 2011**. Bidders located outside the CNMI may obtain an additional seven (7) working days for receipt of their bids by submitting a Notice of Intent to bid. Notices of Intent to bid must be received by the Director of Procurement & Supply no later than 10:00 a.m. local time, **June 10, 2011**, and must be transmitted via facsimile to (670) 664-1515, or via e-mail to procurement@pricom.com. For bidders located outside the CNMI, an original and two copies of sealed bids must be postmarked by the U.S. Postal Service or the official government postal service of a foreign country no later than **June 10, 2011**, and must be received no later than **June 22, 2011**. Note that failure to submit the required number of copies may be cause for rejection of a bid.

Bids will be publicly opened and read at the Division of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan, at 10:00 a.m. local time, **June 27, 2011**. However, if no notices of intent to bid were received from bidders outside the CNMI, bids will be opened at 10:00 a.m. local time, on **June 15, 2011**.

For bids greater than Twenty-Five Thousand Dollars (\$25,000) a bid security of fifteen (15%) of the bid amount must accompany the bid. A **surety company shall hold the Certificate of Authority (COA) from the U.S. Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety or other surety acceptable to the Attorney General and must accompany the bid.** Bid security may be a Certified Check, Cashier's Check or Bid Bond. Checks must be made payable to the CNMI Treasurer, with the name of the bidder and a notation on the face of the check: "Credit Account No. 44660". If a bid bond is submitted it must be accompanied by an Insurer Clearance Certification (ICC).

The bidder submitting the lowest responsive bid will be subject to a responsibility determination in conformance with NMIAC §70-30.3-301 of the Procurement Regulations. The responsible bidder submitting the lowest responsive bid will be awarded a contract with the CNMI Government and will be required to deliver Performance and Payment bonds, each equal to 100% of the contract price for contracts greater than \$25,000.00. The surety company providing the Performance and Payment bonds must hold a Certificate of Authority from the U.S. Department of Treasury as an acceptable surety and must be authorized to conduct business in the CNMI. In addition, the contractor will be required to deliver a certification from the bonding company that the unencumbered value of its assets (exclusive of all outstanding commitments or other bond obligations) exceeded the penal amount of each bond.

Performance time for completion of this project is Thirty (30) Calendar days upon issuance of an official written Notice to Proceed. Liquidated damages will be assessed at One Hundred Dollars (\$100.00) per calendar day for delays beyond the established completion date.

All bid documents received shall become the sole property of the CNMI Government. The Government reserves the right to reject any or all bids and to waive any imperfection in a bid proposal that does not effect the elements of price, quantity, and delivery of the bid, in the best interest of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

/s/ MARTIN C. SABLAN
Secretary of Public Works

/s/ HERMAN S. SABLAN
Director of Procurement & Supply

/s/ Dr. IGNACIO T. DELA CRUZ, DVM
Secretary, Department of Lands and natural Resources

Opinion

Hafa Adai!

Saipan Tribune

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Mailing Address: PMB 34, Box 10001, Saipan, MP, 96950Jayvee L. Vallejera EDITOR
Mark Rabago ASSOCIATE EDITOR

MEMBER

AP The Associated Press

Pacific Islands News Association

EDITORIAL

Tax breaks for oil industry not warranted

In a scene reminiscent of the congressional hearing where tobacco company executives innocently denied that nicotine is addictive, oil company executives solemnly told Congress last week that their exorbitant profits are no big deal. One even suggested that closing big oil's tax loopholes is somehow "un-American."

Tell that to Americans struggling to make ends meet as they cope with \$4-a-gallon gasoline and the economy gets hit with a sudden inflationary spike because of rising fuel prices. Meanwhile, oil companies report record earnings. To top it off BP acknowledges that taxpayers, in effect, are being asked to pick up part of the cost for BP's oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico.

Under questioning from Florida Sen. Bill Nelson, BP America chairman and president Lamar McKay defended as a "standard business expense" the decision to seek a tax write-off for the costs associated with the spill, which would generate \$11.8 billion in tax savings. Considering that much of the cost involves compensation for victims and legal expenses associated with the spill, it's wrong to ask taxpayers to pick up any of it. This is no ordinary cost of doing business like paying for insurance or the copy machine—there's nothing "standard" about it.

"Surely, the Gulf oil spill was the result of wrongdoing, and yet you want to claim that as a tax credit," Sen. Nelson said.

BP, he added "may be entitled to this under the law, but that doesn't make it right ..." Exactly.

Like most congressional hearings pitting righteous lawmakers against clueless executives, this one had an air of political theater. Democrats sense they can score easy political points on a populist issue by condemning the oil industry at a time of rising fuel prices. They were ready for a confrontation. The surprise—or maybe it isn't—is that industry leaders gladly complied by failing to acquit themselves very well.

Democrats want to eliminate industry tax breaks—i.e., loopholes—amounting to \$2.1 billion and use that money to cut the deficit. But Rex W. Tillerson, chief executive for Exxon Mobil—No. 2 company in the world last year with \$370 billion in U.S. revenue—was having none of it. He said he would support repeal only if other loopholes were closed, as well. "Everything for everybody everywhere ought to be on the table."

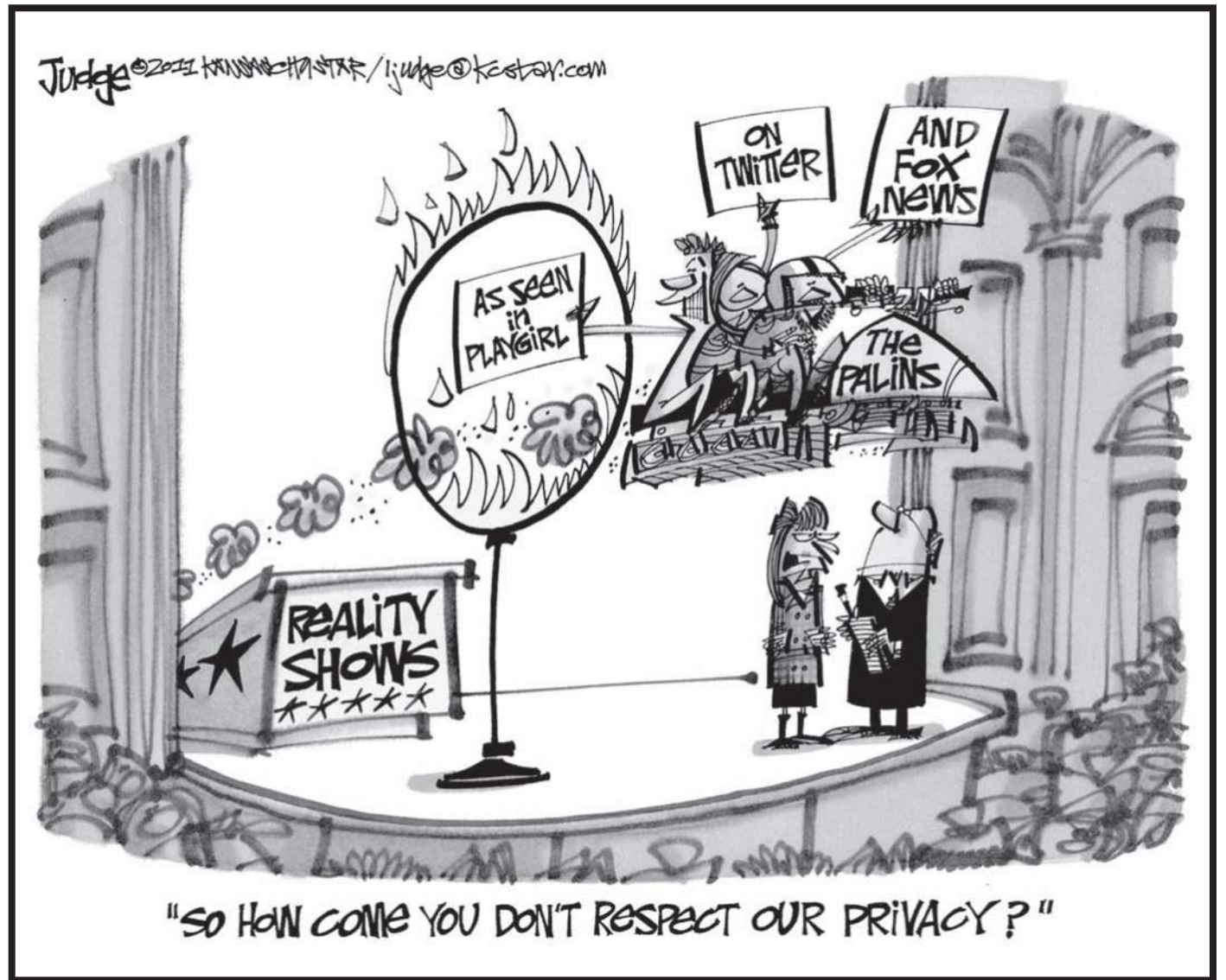
Yet these oil companies are among the most profitable in the world—eight of the top 11 revenue earners are oil and gas corporations. Eliminating some of their tax breaks makes sense, considering that the overall allowances amount to \$4 billion and the five major oil companies reported \$35 billion in first-quarter profits.

Yes, the tax code has to be reformed and a review of all loopholes, tax subsidies and special exemptions will be required. But when a company like Conoco/Phillips issues a news release calling the Democrats' tax proposal "un-American," it suggests industry leaders are out of touch.

The same company recently reported a 16.6 percent return on share price. Its profits in the first quarter this year were 43 percent above the same period last year.

"Everybody everywhere" isn't doing that well.

(c) 2011, The Miami Herald



Defusing the population bomb

Editor's Note: The following editorial appeared in the *Los Angeles Times* on Sunday, May 15

It's getting crowded out there. According to an updated report from the United Nations, the planet's population is not following the expected curve: topping out at about 9 billion mid-century and then leveling off. Instead, the demographic trends point to continued growth, bringing the worldwide population to 10.1 billion by the end of the century—nearly a 50 percent increase for a planet now inhabited by just under 7 billion.

The highest rates of growth will be concentrated in poverty-stricken countries with low education levels, especially those in Africa, where the population is expected to more than triple to 3.5 billion. Nigeria's population, for instance, would more than quadruple, to 730 million. In the Middle East, the population of Yemen is projected to more than quadruple by the end of the century; this in a country that has a limited water supply and already must import much of its food.

The news led some population experts to call for improvements in agriculture to feed a world with so many hungry mouths. But that is, at best, a temporary patch. No matter how efficient we become at growing food, the Earth cannot provide for an infinitely increasing population.

If the U.N.'s numbers hold true, the increased number of poor people will strain the world's environment and natural resources. It will also create far more demand for foreign aid from the developed world.

When the figures are adjusted for inflation, worldwide family-planning aid to poor countries dropped by more than half from 1995 to 2007. The United States has long been the world's leader in this kind of assistance, but gave it shorter shrift during the George W. Bush administration, which launched a multibillion-dollar initiative on AIDS in Africa but flat-lined spending on birth control aid. In addition, the AIDS prevention campaign emphasized abstinence and marital fidelity, which were not particularly effective, rather than condom use.

President Obama's budgets have called for increased spending on family planning overseas, but in the current budget battle, that funding was cut by 5 percent (even on the domestic front, the Republican Party has waged an attack on women's reproductive rights by attempting to withdraw funding for Planned Parenthood). Meanwhile, no other country has stepped in. As a result, at least a fourth of the women in Africa have no access to effective birth control methods.

According to Robert Engelman, vice president of the Worldwatch Institute, more than one in five births results from an unwanted pregnancy. Without all the unintentional births, fertility would be below the replacement level, the rate needed to maintain the current population.

In other words, it wouldn't take much to drastically change the end-of-century numbers. Bad crops, lack of water, epidemics—any

or all of these could tip the balance back toward a population that levels off at 9 billion. But those are tragic scenarios. In contrast, more education for girls and wider access to safe, effective family planning would serve a dual purpose, moving the world population toward sustainable levels and helping to avert famine, illness and premature death.

Forty years ago, early efforts to provide family-planning aid in developing countries ran aground when they became associated with coercive birth control programs such as China's one-baby policy and India's forced vasectomies. Such violations of human rights are not just unacceptable; they also are unnecessary. Surveys find that women in developing countries would choose smaller families if they had the means to do so.

Women who have no schooling give birth to an average of 4.5 children; with just a year or more of schooling, the number drops to 3. As education increases, the number of births drops. Girls in Africa who receive some education will have fewer children and have them later in life. Their children will be healthier, and more educated as well.

Of course, foreign aid is of limited help in countries where religious beliefs or oppressive regimes make it all but impossible for women to exert control over any aspect of their lives. But as individual nations find it more difficult to provide for burgeoning populations in coming decades, there could be some surprising changes. In Iran, a campaign to increase the birthrate after the shah was deposed in the late 1970s—the legal age to marry was lowered to 9—was reversed when the country struggled to find housing, employment and even enough water for a population that had nearly doubled in two decades. The new smaller-families campaign included birth control counseling before a couple could obtain a marriage license, and the birthrate plummeted to just above replacement level. More recently there have been calls to raise the number of births again.

The industrial world struggles with a different form of ambivalence about population growth. When birthrates in Japan and Italy fell to well below replacement levels, leaders were horrified and the Western news media reported it as terrible news. It's true that such a decline in birthrates presents a challenge: a smaller population of working-age people to support a larger population of retirees. Radical drops in birthrates and the subsequent aging of the population have presented formidable problems in some countries. But the situation is temporary; that smaller population will age in a few decades and become easier for future generations to support.

This much is certain: Nations cannot indefinitely produce larger and larger generations to support older ones. Humans may have the reproductive ability to keep raising their numbers, but the planet on which they do it is finite.

EDITORIAL POLICY

Letters to the editor must include the name, address, and contact number of the contributor. Letters that are critical in nature should focus on issues, not personalities. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Pulling out of a dive

Have you ever felt like you're on a plane that is on a crash course with the ground? You know the situation is getting worse by the minute and you also know that the eventual outcome will be disastrous, but for the moment you're buckled in and being told by the captain that things will be "pretty darn good" if we just stay the course.

Well, all of us are passengers on the CNMI plane that's lost one of two main engines (garment factories) and is spiraling in toward its economic demise with the other engine sputtering. In this situation, there are only three options: 1) stay buckled in and just wait for the inevitable to happen, 2) put on a parachute and bail out as soon as you can, or 3) take control of your life and do everything you can to turn things around.

Some individuals are sitting things out and hoping that someone will somehow take control and pull us out of the dive. They have a mistaken belief that someone will always take care of them, or that Uncle Sam is an endless source of money and assistance. Others believe that if they look busy, that their job will still be there, but that's like someone that keeps busy rearranging the deckchairs of the *Titanic*.

A large second group of people have already put their parachutes on and have bailed out or are getting ready to jump to safer ground. They have lost confidence that the economy will turn around anytime soon, so they have moved to find greener pastures somewhere else.

The third option is to step up, grab the stick, and yank it back to pull us out of the dive. These people live by the belief that "if it is meant to be it is up to me." They've assessed the situation and have determined what needs to happen to turn it around, and they are willing to take charge if necessary to see the plan implemented to completion.

There are some personalities that love to be up front and be in the limelight, but I'm not one of them. I'm typically happy being the passenger on the plane as long as we're flying steady and on course. However, when things get bumpy and heading down quick, I feel uncom-

fortable sitting around and doing nothing or just looking busy if I know it's not helping. I have this sense of urgency to do something to try and turn the situation around. Once things have stabilized, I'm happy to go back to my seat and enjoy the ride.

That's what prompted me to apply for the president's position at the college, even though I was only an instructor at the time. I felt an urgency to work with the college and its stakeholders to turn it around. I was even selected by the first presidential search committee to be one of two finalists, but was eventually booted back to my seat by the powers that be.

Now we're faced with a looming disaster in the making if we don't turn the situation around soon in the CNMI. The writing on the wall says that gas prices are going to continue to rise which will drive up the price of everything else, business and government revenues will continue to decrease prompting further cuts, and federally funded programs are not sustainable with the national debt skyrocketing like a ballistic missile.

As I was thinking about this scenario, the only viable conclusion is that things are destined to get a lot worse—unless something is done to turn it around by working with business owners to help grow their businesses. The reality is that business growth is the only sustainable solution to grow the economy. Therefore, to improve the economy, the growth of existing businesses must be a priority, and creating an environment that attracts additional businesses and brings more tourists must also be on the top of the list.

As I was exercising recently, I thought about what could be done to assist local businesses to turn their situation around. I've worked with hundreds of business owners individually or in small groups to improve the performance and profits in their businesses, but whatever needs to happen has to be on a grand scale that allows every interested business to participate and see results.

The thought came to me that there should be a business challenge, similar to the fitness challenge that Gold's Gym recently offered, to mo-

By **RIK VILLEGAS**

Special to the Saipan Tribune

Rik is a writer, life-long learner, and business instructor at Northern Marianas College. He can be contacted at RikVillegas@gmail.com, and you can comment on this article at <http://rikv.blogspot.com>.



tivate business owners to improve their financial situation. Just as many individuals feel stuck trying to lose weight, there are many business owners who feel stuck in this economy, and they don't feel like they have the support or tools to get unstuck.

I know there are a lot of government and private-sector groups and people who offer solutions to start-up and established businesses, and I started to think about the possibilities: What would happen if their resources could be combined in a collaborative effort to provide the tools, techniques, and training to assist local businesses to achieve greater sales and profits? And what if it was so affordable that the low price for it would be ridiculous in comparison to the value received? If this was possible, could it make a difference?

With those thoughts in mind, I put together a brief proposal and sent it to several people to get their feedback. Everyone I've been able to talk to is supportive of the idea and is willing to assist in the effort. I'm still working through the numerous details that need to be lined up, but I believe that the concept has the potential to help every business grow and improve their financial position if they take full advantage of the program.

If it works, I believe it could be the catalyst to help pull us out of a dive. As John Lennon once sang, I may only be a dreamer, but I'm not the only one. If we join together in a common cause, it can make a difference in the future of the CNMI crashing or getting back on course again.

Letters to the Editor

Addiction to food stamps

In response to Tony Pellegrino's column regarding illiteracy and the sad runaway addiction to food stamps that has become endemic to the CNMI, I am struck by two thoughts.

First, kudos to Tony having the leadership guts in the community to stand up and speak the truth. Too bad the fearless leaders on Capital Hill warming their big backsides on cushy government jobs can't muster the critical thinking and visionary attitude to even admit their culture has a serious social drug dependency addiction. This is a fast growing malignant social cancer that is in a terminal stage I fear.

The second fear is that Tony's letter simply falls on deaf ears and nobody cares. The people who truly need to hear this and wake up probably can't even read the full article, or would even have the interest to buy the newspaper. They're spamming out at home with a Budweiser complaining about the federal government, while their kids are turning their brains into Swiss cheese on ice.

This sad social drug addiction of food stamp dependency won't change, just as it hasn't on the mainland Indian reservations, and America's inner cities. We now have four generations of one family all suckling at the government's breast for free money to do nothing. I'm sorry to say this. It's been embedded for too long, and each of the islands' governors has failed to lift his people up to a higher standard. Probably because he himself is not of that higher standard to even see around the palm tree at the tsunami about to hit the beach.

This is a terrible disaster for the children of the CNMI as their role models in life from their first breath of life through school are people who have no goals, no ambitions, or any form of goal setting mechanism to arm their children with. And no respect for the value of education. Just as smallpox, VD, influenza, and typhoons have historically wiped out the island populations in the past, the next epidemic to hit will destroy your beautiful children and their right to a future and build the CNMI into the beautiful place that it is. Keep writing those wake up calls Mr. Tony. The universe is listening, even if nobody else is.

Chris West
Santa Monica, Calif.

Casino politics: I told you so!

I told you so that the proponents of casinos would try to force the casinos down our throats and now look at this latest move to try and make it a "local" issue. How much disrespect do the people have to tolerate from these proponents of casinos? What is it you don't understand about the word "no"? The people and their representatives at the state level of government have said no too many times and you need to respect their decision.

Investors need to know they are disrespecting the people of Saipan, Tinian, and Rota by continuing to try and force us to accept their plans. Just because you have people in office on your side does not mean you have the support of the entire government. You are treading a dangerous path with the attempt to circumvent the power of the state government because there will be *state regulations* governing any kind of casino activity. Local governments will always have to yield to the state government; that is how the federal system works. State laws will always overrule local ordinances and that is how we counter this recent move by the casino advocates.

The Senate shouldn't waste its time and money with taking them to court because they just might win. But the Senate won't have to worry because, first and foremost, all of the Saipan delegation will be replaced for doing something so adverse to the desires of people and the new delegation can change and even kill any local ordinance for casinos—so

Casino investments one, two, three

Three foreign investors have proposed to develop both casino and hotel resorts on Tinian. They have requested to lease parcels of land through the Department of Public Lands. According to Mr. Babauta of DPL, none of them has paid a cent of the required upfront deposit of \$3 million. The investors' proposed development had stood at \$1.6 billion. The uncertainty of when the 8,000 Marines plus their dependents will be transferred to Guam must have contributed to their inability to take the risk.

It is now definite that the transfer of the military and their families from Okinawa to Guam will take place. The above investors have renewed their interest with these commitments and they will pay what they owe DPL plus a one-year advance in land lease payments. However, Neo Gold Wing has asked DPL to waive the up front security deposit. Along with casino-resort development, these investors also want to do farming as an additional phase of their proposed development. I would encourage our lawmaking bodies to make the right decision because the CNMI is the number one target for these investments. You might recall that these investors approached Guam and offered them the same proposed casino resort with things like building a convention

take your chances, investors! Secondly, if our voters are truly on top of their game in the next election, the next Legislature will surely have a different make-up and have the power to create some stringent laws and requirements to govern any new casino laws. For example: All future casinos will have to pay much higher fees, taxes, licenses, and a lot more so the investors will have no choice but to walk away. This law will also protect the present casinos from future turf wars and give them a chance to prosper and grow.

It seems these investors are trying to extend the game on us just like I predicted and we must be prepared to go into overtime on this issue because these investors, their figureheads and mouthpieces are not going to quit! I also told readers the casino desire of investors is the main reason we can't get started on any other economic solution and now I pray every voter can now see the light. The sad part is every voter won't read this letter so every reader has an ethical responsibility to share these words of wisdom by telling a friend to tell and another friend to continue to say no and to ask our government for something better in the CNMI than a gambling spot in the Pacific.

Ambrose M. Bennett
Kagman, Saipan

center, making jobs available at federal wage rates, and the mayors getting their share of benefits from the operation of casinos and resorts. Guam rejected their proposals.

Teddy Guiao
Navy Hill, Saipan

Thanks






Thank you to our Honorable Congressman Gregorio Kili Camacho Sablan for providing our CNMI community with outstanding reading materials for our local public library, especially our community here on Tinian. Thank you for your generous contribution and assistance in securing the needed books that our children and community are now enjoying and in years to come.

Jose P. Kiyoshi
San Jose Village, Tinian

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY
				
Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 15 to 20 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 10 to 15 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲88° ▼77°	▲88° ▼77°	▲88° ▼77°	▲88° ▼77°	▲88° ▼77°

Micronesia

Guam and Rota	Thunderstorms	▲87 ▼80
Palau	Thunderstorms	▲86 ▼78
Yap	Thunderstorms	▲87 ▼77
Chuuk	Thunderstorms	▲82 ▼77
Pohnpei	Rain	▲85 ▼76
Kosrae	Showers	▲88 ▼78
Majuro	Thunderstorms	▲86 ▼77

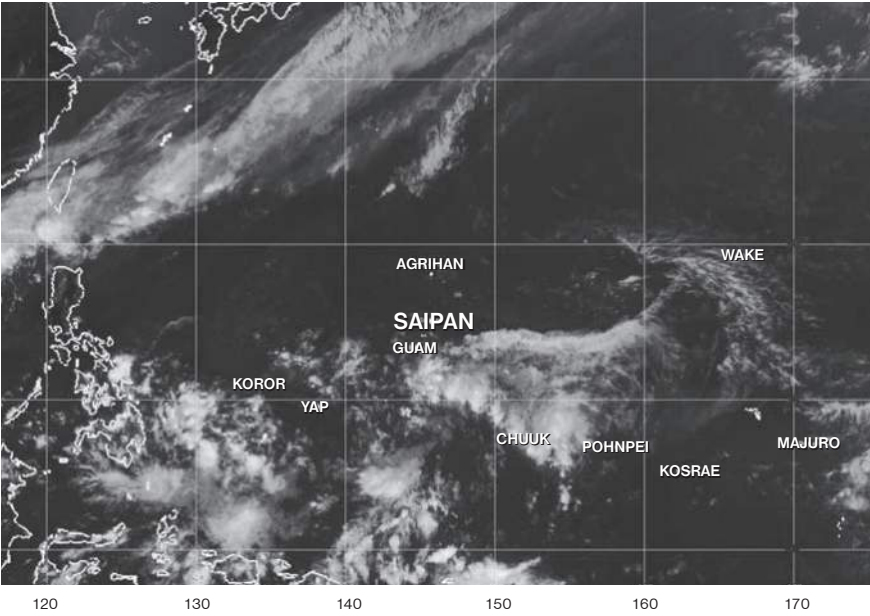
Around The Globe

Auckland	Mostly Sunny	▲62 ▼56
Beijing	Partly Cloudy	▲80 ▼61
Hong Kong	Partly Cloudy	▲83 ▼77
Honolulu	Sunny	▲83 ▼74
London	Mostly Sunny	▲66 ▼51
Los Angeles	Showers	▲63 ▼53
Manila	Thundershowers	▲94 ▼83
Melbourne	Partly Cloudy	▲65 ▼51
Miami	Thundershowers	▲86 ▼69
New York	Rain	▲64 ▼59
Osaka	Sunny	▲77 ▼61
Paris	Partly Cloudy	▲77 ▼56
Pusan	Windy	▲70 ▼62
Rome	Mostly Sunny	▲77 ▼58
Salem	Mostly Sunny	▲69 ▼42
San Francisco	Showers	▲57 ▼50
Seoul	Showers	▲72 ▼60
Tokyo	Sunny	▲75 ▼63
Washington, DC	Thundershowers	▲71 ▼55

Tides

Saipan Harbor				
2:55 AM	Today	Low Tide:	1.1 Feet	
7:45 AM	Today	High Tide:	2.0 Feet	
3:13 PM	Today	Low Tide:	0.6 Feet	
10:19 PM	Today	High Tide:	2.0 Feet	

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, TUESDAY, MAY 17, 2011
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A monsoon trough extends eastward from 7N130E through a circulation centered west of Chuuk at 7N145E to end near 2N152E. Scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms are found near Koror west of a line from 9N135E to 5N137E to EQ136E and southeast of Yap between the equator and 7N from 141E to 146E. Low-level convergence northeast and east of the monsoon trough is generating scattered showers and a few thunderstorms near Guam and Chuuk within 120 miles of a line from 13N144E to 11N151E to 6N155E. Trade-wind convergence is producing scattered showers southeast of Majuro east of a line from 8N177E to 3N173E.

Sunrise/Sunset

Today	5:48 AM	6:40 PM
Friday	5:47 AM	6:40 PM
Saturday	5:47 AM	6:40 PM
Sunday	5:47 AM	6:40 PM
Monday	5:47 AM	6:41 PM

Moonrise/Moonset

Today	8:33 PM	7:06 AM
Friday	9:29 PM	8:06 AM
Saturday	10:19 PM	9:04 AM
Sunday	11:04 PM	10:00 AM
Monday	11:45 PM	10:53 AM

GET YOUR PICTURES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS PUBLISHED—FOR FREE

The *Saipan Tribune* accepts for FREE publication the following:

PICTURES

- **ISLAND SNAPSHOTS**
Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related events.
- **BIRTHDAY GREETINGS**
A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.
- **BUSINESS**
Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.
- **SAMUT SARI**
Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
- **TRAVELOGUE**
Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- **COMMUNITY BRIEFS**

Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.

CAMPUS BULLETIN

Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

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For pictures:

- Photos should be original and not copyrighted. Contributors must have the right to allow the *Saipan Tribune* to publish the pictures.
- Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
- Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
- For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.

For announcements:

- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when),

the name of contact person, and a phone number.

- Must be submitted no later than 12 noon to make it to next day's edition.

HOW TO SUBMIT

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- Drop off: 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan
- To check if contributions are received, call (670) 235-6397, 235-2440, 235-8747

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- The *Saipan Tribune* will decide how often community announcements are going to be published.
- For Travelogue, the *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to choose which pictures to publish.

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF MAY 10, 2011

DEPARTURES				ARRIVALS			
SAIPAN-GUAM				GUAM-SAIPAN			
C09317	4:25am	5:15am	Daily	C09316	2:45am	3:35am	Daily
C09313	7:55am	8:45am	3, 6	C09596	6:35am	7:25am	3, 6
C09313	8:30am	9:20am	1, 2, 4, 5, 7	C09596	7:00am	7:50am	1, 2, 4, 5, 7
C09601	12:10pm	1:00pm	1, 4, 5, 7	C09600	10:05am	10:55am	1, 2, 4, 5, 7
C09603	3:05pm	3:55pm	1, 2, 4, 5, 7	5K389	1:35pm	2:25pm	1, 4, 6
5K382	6:00pm	6:50pm	2, 5, 7	C09602	1:40pm	2:30pm	1, 4, 5, 7
C09605	6:30pm	7:20pm	Daily	C09604	5:10pm	6:00pm	Daily
C09599	9:30pm	10:20pm	Daily	C09606	8:00pm	8:50pm	Daily
SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)				NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN			
DL287	6:00am	8:45am	Daily	DL298	10:25am	3:00pm	Daily
DL297	4:35pm	7:20pm	Daily	DL288	8:05pm	12:35am+1	Daily
SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)				BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN			
OZ608	3:20am	6:50am	1, 5	OZ607	9:00pm	2:20am+1	4, 7
SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)				SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN			
OZ606	2:20am	6:00am	1	OZ603	9:00am	2:30pm	2, 4, 6, 7
OZ606	2:50am	6:30am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7	OZ605	7:40pm	1:10am+1	7
OZ604	3:30pm	7:00pm	2, 4, 6, 7	OZ605	8:10pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)				SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN			
MU590	4:30am	7:20am	2, 6	MU589	8:50pm	3:30am+1	1, 5
3U8648	6:10am	8:40am	1, 5	3U8647	10:40pm	5:00am+1	4, 7
SAIPAN-GUANGZHOU (CAN)				GUANGZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN			
3U8646	4:20am	7:30am	2, 4	3U8645	7:40pm	3:00am+1	1, 5
SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)				MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN			
OZ606/701	2:20am	11:25am	1 via ICN	OZ704/603	12:10am	2:30pm	2, 4, 6, 7
OZ606/701	2:50am	11:25am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN				via ICN
C09317/891	4:25am	9:45am	3, 6 via GUM	DL172/288	7:45am	12:35am+1	Daily via NRT
DL287/173	6:00am	10:15pm	Daily via NRT	C0890/9606	10:55am	8:50pm	3, 6 via GUM
C09313/933	7:55am	8:40pm	3, 6 via GUM	OZ702/605	12:45pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
C09603/933	3:05pm	8:40pm	1, 2, 4, 5, 7 via GUM	OZ702/605	12:45pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
C09603/893	3:05pm	10:10pm	2, 5 via GUM-Palau	C0892/9596	9:55pm	7:50am+1	2, 5 via GUM-Palau
OZ604/703	3:20pm	11:00pm	2, 4, 6, 7 ICN	PR110/C09596	10:15pm	7:25am+1	6 via GUM
OZ604/715	3:20pm	11:30pm	7	PR110/C09596	10:15pm	7:50am+1	1, 2, 4, 7 via GUM
C09599/PR111	9:30pm	7:50am+1	1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM	C0934/9596	10:55pm	7:50am+1	1, 4, 7 via GUM
SAIPAN-HONG KONG				HONG KONG-SAIPAN			
OZ606/721	2:20am	11:50am	1 via ICN	OZ724/603	12:30am	2:20pm	2, 4, 6, 7
OZ606/721	2:50am	11:50am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN				via ICN
C09603/909	3:05pm	9:25pm	1, 5 via GUM	OZ750/603	1:00am	2:20pm	2, 4, 6, 7
5K168	3:25pm	6:35pm	1, 4, 6				via ICN
OZ604/749	3:30pm	11:00pm	2, 4, 6, 7 via ICN	5K169	9:55am	5:00pm	2, 5, 7
				OZ722/605	1:25pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
				OZ722/605	1:25pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
				C0910/9596	10:30pm	7:50am+1	1, 5 via GUM
Editor's Note: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 5K: FlyGuam; 3U: Sichuan Airlines; MU: China Eastern; CZ: China Southern; CO: Continental; DL: Delta Airlines; OZ: Asiana				ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The <i>Saipan Tribune</i> is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)			

FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency	Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
Guam-Rota				FRE 113	11:40	11:50	Daily
FRE 100	7:30	8:00	Daily	FRE 115	13:00	13:10	Daily
Rota-Saipan				FRE 117	14:30	14:40	Daily
FRE 100	8:20	8:50	Daily	FRE 119	16:00	16:10	Daily
Guam-Rota				FRE 121	16:40	16:50	Daily
FRE 300	17:00	17:30	Daily	FRE 123	17:40	17:50	Daily
Rota-Saipan				FRE 125	18:30	18:40	Daily
FRE 400	17:50	18:20	Daily				
Saipan-Rota				Tinian-Saipan			
FRE 200	9:30	10:00	Daily	FRE 102	7:05	7:15	Daily
Rota-Guam				FRE 104	7:50	8:00	Daily
FRE 400	10:20	10:45	Daily	FRE 106	8:20	8:30	Daily
Saipan-Rota				FRE 108	9:00	9:10	Daily
FRE 400	18:55	19:25	Daily	FRE 110	10:00	10:10	Daily
Rota-Guam				FRE 112	11:05	11:15	Daily
FRE 400	19:40	20:10	Daily	FRE 114	12:00	12:10	Daily
Saipan-Tinian				FRE 116	13:30	13:40	Daily
FRE 101	6:45	6:55	Daily	FRE 118	14:50	15:00	Daily
FRE 103	7:30	7:40	Daily	FRE 120	16:20	16:30	Daily
FRE 105	8:00	8:10	Daily	FRE 122	17:00	17:10	Daily
FRE 107	8:40	8:50	Daily	FRE 124	18:05	18:15	Daily
FRE 109	9:10	9:20	Daily	FRE 126	18:50	19:00	Daily
FRE 111	10:45	10:55	Daily				



NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any PTI cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

Taste of the Marianas heats up with hot soba

Last Saturday's Taste of the Marianas International Food Festival & Beer Garden was hot and spicy as brave contenders joined the Hot Soba Eating Competition.

Two spoonfuls of locally grown hot pepper were added to steaming bowls of soba. In the 18 and under heat, first place and \$50 cash went to Kai Shiano. Second place and \$30 cash went to Daniel Mafnas, while third place and \$20 cash was garnered by Mikhael Masongsong.

In the adult heat, Anthony Camacho captured the crown, followed by Daryl Brana and Leo Wania. Each also earned cash prizes.

"This year we brought back an old crowd favorite with a hot pepper-laced eating competition," said Marianas Visitors Authority community projects manager Martin Dueñas. "It was fun to give our bold competitors a real 'taste of the Marianas,' and the spectators got a big kick out of watching them."

The Taste of the Marianas is held each Saturday in May by the MVA and the Hotel Association of the Northern Mariana Islands in celebration of Tourism Month. The event begins at 6pm and features reasonably priced dishes from local hotels and restaurants, free live entertainment, and weekly competitions.

The Northern Marianas is celebrating Tourism Month throughout May. Residents are encouraged to wear islandwear and post their photos on Facebook at *Hafa Adai Tirow* Spirit Islandwear of the Northern Mariana Islands for a chance to win tokens for the Taste of the Marianas. Winners from the first two weeks of the month are Jewels Malia and Julia Espino, both earning \$10 in Taste tokens.

This upcoming Saturday's competition will pit island bartenders against each other in the Bartender's Cocktail Competition beginning at 6pm. The final Saturday of the festival on May 28, 2011, will feature the Chefs' Competition. (MVA)



MVA

▲ Adult competitors in the Hot Soba Eating Competition held during the 13th Annual Taste of the Marianas International Food Festival & Beer Garden on May 14, 2011, on Saipan.



Nathan Carrick shows his unique style during the Hot Soba Eating Competition at the 13th Annual Taste of the Marianas International Food Festival & Beer Garden on May 14, 2011.

MVA

Hot Soba Eating Competition winners in the adult heat from left, Leo Wania, Anthony Camacho, and Daryl Brana. The three bested seven other competitors to win cash prizes at the 13th Annual Taste of the Marianas International Food Festival & Beer Garden on May 14, 2011.

MVA



MVA

Diners pick up shrimp tempura and sushi as one of dozens of dinner selections during the 13th Annual Taste of the Marianas International Food Festival & Beer Garden on May 14, 2011.



MVA

Hot Soba Eating Competition winners in the youth heat from left, Mikhael Masongsong, Daniel Mafnas, and Kai Shiano. The three won cash prizes at the 13th Annual Taste of the Marianas International Food Festival & Beer Garden on May 14, 2011, on Saipan.



MVA

Polynesian dancers perform a Samoan dance during the 13th Annual Taste of the Marianas International Food Festival & Beer Garden on May 14, 2011. The festival offers reasonably priced food, live entertainment, and nightly competitions and will continue on May 21 and 28, 2011, from 6pm to 10pm at American Memorial Park.

Business

IMF chief under suicide watch at NYC jail

Dominique Strauss-Kahn

Managing director of International Monetary Fund



Early years

Born 1949, in Neuilly-sur-Seine, France, to left-wing Jewish parents; spent his youth in Morocco

Education Ph.D. in economics from University of Paris; also holds degrees in law, business

Career

Began as a university professor of economics; tenured at University of Paris in 1978

1981-1986 Deputy commissioner of Economic Planning Agency

1986 Deputy in the National Assembly (parliament); chaired finance commission, 1988-91

1991-1993 French trade minister; participated in the Uruguay Round of trade negotiations

1993-1997 Corporate lawyer

1997-1999 French finance minister; helped manage the launch of the euro; resigned over accusations of corruption, which were later cleared

2000-2001 Taught economics at the prestigious Institut d'Etudes Politiques de Paris; visiting professor at Stanford University

2001-2007 Deputy in National Assembly; lost Socialist Party nomination for president, 2006

Since 2007 IMF chief

Controversy

2008 Censored by IMF for an affair with a subordinate; nicknamed Chaud Lapin (the Hot Rabbit); stayed married to Anne Sinclair, an American-French journalist

2011 Faces charges of alleged rape, criminal sexual assault of a maid in a New York hotel

© 2011 MCT
Source: International Monetary Fund, BBC, MCT Photo Service
Graphic: Pat Carr

NEW YORK (AP)—IMF chief Dominique Strauss-Kahn was placed under a suicide watch in jail, while pressure mounted on him to resign Tuesday and the hotel maid who accused him of attempted rape said through her lawyer that she had no idea who he was when she reported him to the police.

Law enforcement officials emphasized that Strauss-Kahn had not tried to harm himself but that guards were keeping a close watch on him just in case.

NEW YORK (AP)—Treasury Secretary Timothy Geithner said Tuesday that Dominique Strauss-Kahn “is obviously not in a position to run” the International Monetary Fund after his arrest on charges of attempted rape. Geithner said the IMF’s 24-member executive board should formally designate an interim head. John Lipsky has been serving as acting managing director. Geithner praised Lipsky as a capable manager.

Geithner’s remarks at the Harvard Club of New York were the first on the case from a top Obama administration official. The blunt assessment will likely escalate the pressure on Strauss-Kahn to step down. It came in response to a question about what the IMF should do about its leadership crisis.

Meanwhile, details began to emerge about his accuser, a 32-year-old immigrant from the West African nation of Guinea with a 15-year-old daughter.

“There is no way in which there is any aspect of this event which could be construed consensual in any manner. This is nothing other than a physical, sexual assault by this man on this young woman,” her attorney, Jeffrey Shapiro, told The Associated Press. He added: “She did not know who this man was until a day or two after this took place.”

Strauss-Kahn, the 62-year-old managing director of the International Monetary Fund, was arrested Saturday and is being held without bail at the city’s Rikers Island jail, kept apart from his fellow prisoners in a unit that normally houses inmates with contagious diseases.

Police and prosecutors said he ambushed a housekeeper who had come to clean his \$3,000-per-night at a New York hotel. Lawyers for the influential banker have challenged that account, saying the evidence doesn’t support accusations of forcible sex.

They wouldn’t elaborate,

but the assertion gave rise to speculation that they might argue it was consensual sex. At the same time, some of Strauss-Kahn’s supporters in France, where he was considered a possible challenger next year to President Nicolas Sarkozy, have suggested he may be the victim of a setup.

Senate blocks bill repealing \$2 billion in oil tax breaks

WASHINGTON (AP)—The Senate blocked a bill Tuesday that would repeal about \$2 billion a year in tax breaks for the five biggest oil companies, a Democratic response to \$4-a-gallon gasoline that might fare better when Congress and the White House negotiate a deal later this year to increase the government’s ability to borrow.

The bill was defeated on a procedural vote. But Democrats hope to build their case to include the measure in a deficit-reduction package being negotiated by key lawmakers and the Obama administration. Lawmakers from both parties are demanding deficit reduction as part of deal to increase the government’s ability to borrow and avoid an unprecedented default on U.S. Treasury bonds.

“This bill says that even the most rich and powerful among us must do their fair share to help us reduce the deficit,” said Sen. Robert Menendez, D-N.J., the bill’s sponsor. “Their high-priced lobbyists cannot stop us from doing what is fair and

what is right.”

Republicans and some Democrats opposed the tax increase, saying it would hurt domestic drilling while doing nothing to reduce gas prices. The vote was 52-48 in favor of the measure, short of the 60 votes needed to advance it. Three Democrats—Mary Landrieu of Louisiana, Ben Nelson of Nebraska and Mark Begich of Alaska—joined with nearly all Republicans in opposing the measure. Two Republicans, Olympia Snowe and Susan Collins of Maine, voted for it.

The U.S. Chamber of Commerce called the tax increases “misguided, unwarranted and ultimately counterproductive.”

The measure would have affected Shell Oil Co., ExxonMobil, ConocoPhillips, BP America and Chevron Corp.

“This is not an energy strategy, this is a public relations strategy, this is a ‘how do I get re-elected’ strategy,” said Sen. John Cornyn, R-Texas. “It does not solve the problem or the pain that Americans are feeling at the pump.”



EMPLOYEES OF THE QUARTER

Accountant Mary Muna, in yellow, and Marketing Specialist Tatiana Babauta, in black, were recently recognized as the Marianas Visitors Authority employees of the second and first quarters, respectively. The two honorees were announced at the MVA staff meeting on May 4, 2011. Pictured from left are chief accountant Donnie Militante, deputy managing director Judy Torres, marketing manager Bruce Bateman, Muna, Babauta, and managing director Perry Tenorio.

MVA

EU president calls for level field with China

BEIJING (AP)—The European Union president called Tuesday for a level playing field in commerce between China and Europe, warning the European public could turn to protectionism if they felt China wasn’t playing fair.

Herman Van Rompuy also said China’s global reputation could be harmed by its negative record on human rights, although he made no direct mention of recent cases of repression, including the detention of famed artist and government critic Ai Weiwei.

“A level playing field for trade and investment is key,”

Van Rompuy said in a speech to communist officials at the party’s national training center in Beijing.

A nation’s people must feel they have a fair chance of winning business abroad to offset that lost through international competition, or else “populism and protectionism loom,” he said.

The 27-nation EU is China’s largest export market, but European firms have been battered by low-cost Chinese textiles, leatherwear and other goods. Meanwhile, European companies, along with other foreign firms, have complained of regulatory barriers hindering

their ability to compete freely in China. China’s currency controls, which help boost Chinese exports, are also an irritant in relations with other countries.

Van Rompuy said the sides had a healthy dialogue on reducing impediments and said he expected further progress to result from discussions at an upcoming EU-China summit.

“The most important thing is that we go forward that we make progress that we make rules and implement them not only at the central level but also at the local level,” he said. “And I’m quite sure that ... we will discuss it in an open way

and that we will take sufficient initiatives to achieve that level playing field.”

Van Rompuy said he was heartened by China’s latest five-year plan for development that envisions shifting the economy away from exports and investment and toward increased reliance on domestic demand, eventually reducing and possibly eliminating its trade surplus and other imbalances.

Van Rompuy stressed the central importance of human rights in the EU’s foreign policy and called on China to honor international rights covenants it has signed.

BUSINESS BRIEFS

Venezuela economy grows 4.5 percent in 1st quarter

CARACAS, Venezuela (AP)—Venezuela’s economy expanded 4.5 percent for the first quarter, confirming a growth trend after nearly two years of recession, officials said Tuesday. Growth in both the public and private sectors contributed to the recovery, even as the key oil industry contracted 1.8 percent, Central Bank president Nelson Merentes said at a news conference. The rapid expansion came after the last quarter of 2010 showed Venezuela had barely emerged from recession with 0.6 percent growth, in a year that saw an overall decline of 1.4 percent in gross domestic product.

Dell profit jumps as computer maker cuts costs

SAN FRANCISCO (AP)—Dell Inc. said Tuesday that its net income for the latest quarter nearly tripled as the personal computer maker benefited from lower computer component costs and growth in some of its more profitable product lines. Shares of Dell, which beat analysts’ adjusted net income estimates but came in a bit below revenue estimates, rose 5 percent in extended trading. For the three months that ended April 29, Dell earned \$945 million, or 49 cents per share, compared with \$341 million, or 17 cents per share, a year earlier.

STOCK PORTFOLIO



LEADING INDICATORS

DOW	S&P	NASDAQ
12,479.58	1,328.98	2,783.21
-68.79	-0.49	+0.90
-0.55%	-0.04%	+0.03%

EXCHANGE RATES

In U.S. dollar terms	Australian Dollar	0.9413	Indian Rupee	45.1587	Singapore Dollar	1.2456
	British Pound	0.6154	Indonesian Rupiah	8577.5	South Korean Won	1088.5
	Canadian Dollar	0.9722	Japanese Yen	81.4315	Swiss Franc	0.8804
	Chinese Yuan	6.5059	Malaysian Ringgit	3.051	Taiwan Dollar	28.845
	Euro	0.7024	New Zealand Dollar	1.2758	Thailand Baht	30.302

Nation

Coast Guard reopens part of the Mississippi River

JACKSON, Mississippi (AP)—Shipping already curtailed because of flooding that is plaguing the Mississippi River was halted for much of Tuesday when officials closed the waterway north of New Orleans in the latest tough decision to try to reduce pressure on levees protecting cities and towns.

By late in the day, barges that haul coal, timber, iron, steel and more than half of America's grain exports were allowed to pass, but at the slowest possible speed. Such interruptions could cost the U.S. economy hundreds of millions of dollars for each day the barges are idled, as the toll from the weeks-long flooding from Arkansas to Louisiana continues to mount.

Officials along a 15-mile (24-kilometer) stretch at Natchez, Mississippi, blocked vessels heading toward the Gulf

of Mexico and others trying to return north after dropping off their freight. Had the channel remained closed, it could have brought traffic to a standstill on the river, a conduit for about 500 million tons of cargo each year.

Coast Guard officials said wakes generated by passing barge traffic could increase the strain on levees designed to hold back the river. Authorities were also concerned that barges could not operate safely in the flooded river, which has risen to the level of some docks and submerged others.

"We're closely monitoring traffic along the river and all vessels must stay to the center of the river," Coast Guard Cmdr. Mark Moland said.

In Vidalia, Louisiana, across the river from Natchez, Carla Jenkins was near tears as she watched the first tows and barge



A shed is seen under water at the Vidalia Dock and Storage, as floodwaters from the rising Mississippi flood the buildings, in Vidalia, La., Tuesday, May 17, 2011.

move north after the reopening.

"The water from the wakes just keeps coming into our

buildings. We're going to have a lot more damage," said Jenkins, who owns Vidalia Dock and Storage.

Moland said the Coast Guard tested wake impact before making the decision. The tests indicated sandbagging and other measures to protect most of the area could withstand the wakes if the vessels were ordered to move through the areas at the slowest possible speed.

It's not clear how long barges would only be able to move one at a time through the section.

The river is expected to stay high in some places for weeks.

The Coast Guard did not have comprehensive figures on how many vessels were immediately affected, but the agency stopped at least 19 near Natchez.

In past closures, the numbers have grown quickly. In 2008, the agency halted 59 ships within a day of shutting down a stretch of the river near New Orleans because of a barge and tanker collision.

Shipping companies had hoped for a swift reopening.

On a typical day, 600 barges move up and down the river, according to Bob Anderson, spokesman for the Mississippi Valley Division of the Army Corps of Engineers. A single barge can carry as much cargo as 70 tractor-trailers or 17 rail cars.

"When it shuts, there's really no alternative," said Jim Reed, president of the Illinois Corn Growers Association.

The Coast Guard's traffic-management division hoped to prevent barges from piling up on either side of the closed zone by requiring them to be at least 1,200 feet (365 meters) apart.

Also Tuesday, at least 10 freight terminals along the lower Mississippi between Baton Rouge and New Orleans suspended operations because of high water. Vessels scheduled to use the terminals will either have to wait out the high water or divert elsewhere. Delaying a vessel by even a single day often costs \$20,000 to \$40,000, port officials said.

Throughout the spring, the Mississippi is a highway for barges laden with corn, soybeans and other crops headed from the Midwest to ports near New Orleans, where they get loaded onto massive grain carriers for export around the world.

US: No rush to destroying last smallpox viruses

GENEVA (AP)—The United States has proposed that the last known stockpiles of the smallpox virus should be retained for at least another five years to allow for more research and prevent one of the world's deadliest diseases being used as a biological weapon.

U.S. Health and Human Services Secretary Kathleen Sebelius told reporters Tuesday that the World Health Organization has been asked to decide whether the stockpiles held in secure U.S. and Russian labs should remain in place for at least another five years, when experts could again review the situation.

At a news conference at the U.N.'s European headquarters where the World Health Assembly also was debating the matter, Sebelius said the U.S. is "committed to the eventual

destruction" of the stockpiles but fears that smallpox could still re-emerge and be released unintentionally or deliberately used as a biological weapon. Scientists would need the virus to create a vaccine.

An aide to Sebelius, Bill Hall, later told AP that the United States would not act unilaterally, but would await the outcome of a vote on the U.S. proposal in the Geneva-based assembly.

For centuries smallpox killed about one-third of the people it infected, but it was eradicated from the environment three decades ago. The last known case was in Britain in 1978.

Many countries say the world would be safer if the remaining stockpiles of the virus—held at U.S. federal facilities in Atlanta, Georgia,

and a Russian research center in Koltsovo—were now destroyed. At the meeting this week some of WHO's member countries again pushed to set a date for the virus' destruction, the fifth year they have made such an attempt.

WHO officials said there was no indication there was more support for resolving the dispute this year.

The U.N. health agency first agreed in 1996 that smallpox should be destroyed—though it lacks the power to enforce the decision. But that has been repeatedly delayed to give scientists time to develop safer smallpox vaccines and drugs. There are now two such vaccines and a third coming along, plus experimental drugs in the works to treat but not cure the disease.

ACROSS THE NATION

Colo. standoff ends with deaths of man and toddler

FOUNTAIN, Colo. (AP)—The deaths of a man and toddler found inside a home following a six-hour standoff in Colorado are being investigated as a murder-suicide and a woman wounded while trying to escape was fighting for her life Tuesday, authorities said. Officers found the bodies Monday night in the home in Fountain, just south of Colorado Springs, after trying unsuccessfully to contact the man. Fountain Police Chief Todd Evans said the house had been doused with gasoline, according to The Gazette. Authorities haven't identified the two found dead, but Evans described them as a family. Authorities are waiting for autopsy results on how they died.

Feds unveil plan to combat bat-killing fungus

WASHINGTON (AP)—The Interior Department launched a national plan Tuesday to combat a mysterious disease that has killed more than a million bats in the eastern and southern

United States and is spreading west. The disease, called white-nose syndrome, is caused by a fungus. The disease has spread to 16 states, from New Hampshire to Tennessee, and three Canadian provinces. Interior Secretary Ken Salazar said the new plan provides a road map for more than 100 federal, state, and tribal agencies and scientific researchers that are tracking the disease and attempting to combat it.

NJ boy, 3, dies after falling into grease pit

VINELAND, N.J. (AP)—Police say a 3-year-old boy has died after falling into a grease pit outside a southern New Jersey food market. Authorities say the boy fell into a 5-foot-deep pit containing kitchen grease and food waste outside Cidra's Supermarket in Vineland on Tuesday. Store employees who tried to get him out were unable to find him. Vineland EMS Chief Al Lincks tells The Press of Atlantic City that he and two firefighters were able to remove the boy after two to three minutes but were not able to revive him.

Woman's plane photos of space shuttle go viral

WEST PALM BEACH, Fla. (AP)—Groggy from a late night watching the Yankees, frigid from a chilled airplane cabin, Stefanie Gordon stirred to action after the pilot's announcement. Lifting her iPhone to the plane's window, she captured an otherworldly image that rocketed around the globe as fast as her subject: Space shuttle Endeavour soaring from a bank of clouds, its towering plume of white smoke lighting the azure sky.

She had never imagined the response her airborne image—capturing the last launch of Endeavour and the next-to-last

space shuttle flight—would ignite. The images and video have been viewed hundreds of thousands of times on Twitter alone, landed on network newscasts and been published in newspapers worldwide.

In turn, they've made a photographic celebrity of sorts of the unemployed 33-year-old from Hoboken, N.J.

"It just blew up," she said of the attention.

Gordon caught an early Delta flight from New York to West Palm Beach on Monday to visit her parents and had a whole row to herself, never imagining the history she would record.



This citizen journalism photo taken with a cell phone by Stefanie Gordon aboard a passenger flight from New York to Palm Beach, Fla. shows the space shuttle Endeavour as it streaks toward orbit shortly after liftoff Monday May 16, 2011.

She stretched out and took a nap. Then she awoke shortly before the pilot announced the descent had begun and a sighting of the shuttle was possible. She had forgotten Endeavour was even taking off at 8:56 a.m. EDT, but readied her iPhone just in case.

Then, the pilot came on again, alerting passengers the shuttle was in sight.

"Everybody ran over to the east side of the plane," Gordon said Tuesday, "and all of a sudden there it was in the clouds."

All told, she shot 12 seconds of footage of the shuttle arcing on its simple stream of smoke into space. She also shot three still photographs.

The plane landed minutes later in West Palm Beach and while she was waiting at the luggage carousel, at 9:31 a.m., she began uploading to Twitter. As she waited for her father to pick her up, she realized her work was making a splash.

"My phone just started going crazy," she said.

Among those who reached out to Gordon was Anne Farrar, a photo editor at The Washington Post, who saw the images after they were posted by a friend on Facebook. She said she'd never seen anything quite like this view of a shuttle launch before.

Asia

Pakistan protests after clash with NATO helicopter

ISLAMABAD (AP)—Pakistan's military said Tuesday its ground forces exchanged fire with a NATO helicopter in another possible flashpoint with Washington, but also claimed it arrested a senior al-Qaida operative following U.S. demands for "actions, not words" to restore trust.

The two reports highlight some of the complexities of trying to rebuild ties after the U.S. raid that killed Osama bin Laden earlier this month. Washington needs Pakistan as a crucial partner against al-Qaida, but Pakistani officials remain deeply angered by the secret operation over their borders in the assault on bin Laden.

In a possible sign of stronger controls on the frontier, Pakistani ground forces traded fire with a NATO helicopter on the Afghanistan-Pakistan border, wounding two Pakistani soldiers, officials said. The Pakistani army filed a protest, and a NATO spokesman said an "incident" occurred at the border and that an investigation would be launched.

Pakistan's powerful army and intelligence agencies have faced

uncomfortable international scrutiny since bin Laden was killed inside a fortified compound in the army town of Abbottabad.

U.S. lawmakers and other critics have said bin Laden's location was the latest—and strongest—indication that Pakistan could have been accepting U.S. aid to battle the Islamic militancy, but at the same time possibly protecting terrorists. Pakistan denies that.

The army said it had arrested Yemeni national Muhammad Ali Qasim Yaqub—also known as Abu Sohaib Al Makki—who they claim had been working directly under al-Qaida leaders along the border between Pakistan and Afghanistan. It did not say when he was arrested, but noted it was in the southern city of Karachi, where several other top al-Qaida leaders have been detained since 2001.

An American official said the suspect was a mid-level al-Qaida operative and praised the Pakistani military. The official spoke on condition of anonymity to discuss matters of intelligence. There was little if any

information about him in the public sphere.

The Pakistani military said Al Makki's detention was a "major development in unraveling the al-Qaida network operating in the region."

On Monday, U.S. Sen. John Kerry met army and civilian leaders in Pakistan during the first visit by an American emissary since bin Laden was killed. With some American lawmakers calling for U.S. aid to Pakistan to be cut, he told them that "action, not words" were needed to tackle militancy.

The United States says it has no evidence that Pakistan's civil or military leadership knew of bin Laden's whereabouts, but it could apply more pressure for operations against Afghan Taliban factions living over the border in northwest Pakistan. Such offensives could make it easier to begin withdrawing American troops from Afghanistan in July as planned.

Islamabad has so far refused to step up missions in the tribal areas, saying its forces are too stretched already.

Myanmar frees 14,600, but few political prisoners

YANGON, Myanmar (AP)—Myanmar is releasing more than 14,600 prisoners under a clemency program that includes just a few political prisoners, one of them a hip-hop singer.

Prison Department Director General Zaw Win said most of the convicts, including 2,166 women, would be freed Tuesday from jails around the country.

Myanmar has been under the sway of the army since 1962, and critics say its recent transition to a civilian government is a charade that perpetuates military rule. Authorities have long clamped down on dissent, and the U.N. and human rights groups estimate there are more than 2,000 political detainees countrywide.

The limited nature of the program—which commutes death sentences to life imprisonment and cuts one year from other convicts' prison terms—has drawn criticism from many who had expected more generous terms, similar to broader amnesties that have been announced in the past.

New York-based Human Rights Watch issued a statement calling the clemency "a pathetic response to international calls for the immediate release of all political prisoners."

The U.S. State Department and Amnesty International both called for the immediate release of all political prisoners, as they have before.

The National League for De-

mocracy—the country's de facto opposition party—said at least 22 political prisoners, mostly members of the group, were among those freed. Zeyar Thaw, a singer with the band Acid who was accused of belonging to an underground opposition group, was one of those let free.

The Myanmar government generally grants amnesties to mark important national days. The last in 2009 freed 7,114 prisoners. Most recipients are petty criminals, but previous mass releases have usually included a handful of political detainees.

An amnesty had been expected when the country held its first elections in 20 years in November.

ASIAN BRIEFS

China's premier to visit tsunami-hit area in Japan

BEIJING (AP)—China says Premier Wen Jiabao will visit the devastated area of Fukushima when he travels to Japan this weekend to show his country's support for reconstruction efforts after the twin earthquake and tsunami disasters. Assistant Foreign Minister Hu Zhengyue told reporters at a briefing in Beijing on Wednesday that Wen himself decided to make the visit and that it was meant to show Chinese concern for those affected and a commitment to helping support the area's reconstruction.

Filipino sailor dead in ship attacked by pirates

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—The Philippines says a Filipino seafarer has been found dead on a

ship that was attacked by pirates at anchor in the West African nation of Benin. The Philippine foreign affairs department says it's not clear how Christopher Cortez Ceprado died or if the pirates were responsible. It says he was found dead last Wednesday, four days after pirates robbed the chemical tanker MT Sea King and its 17 Filipino crewmen in the port of Benin's main city, Cotonou. The other crewmen were not harmed.

Spratlys conflict involving US unlikely: diplomat

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—An American diplomat says it's unlikely that an armed conflict involving the United States will erupt in the contested Spratly Islands. David Carden, Washington's ambassador to the As-

sociation of Southeast Asian Nations, said Monday that countries claiming the islands in the South China Sea need to create a strong regional mechanism to resolve the dispute. He said they should include other countries that can help such as the United States.

World's oldest panda dies in Chinese zoo at age 34

BEIJING (AP)—Chinese state media say the world's oldest panda has died at the age of 34. The Global Times reported that Ming Ming had kidney failure. She had been living at a zoo or preserve in Guangdong province. The China Panda Protection Center in Sichuan province said in a statement she died May 7, but it was reported only Tuesday in local media. More details about her were not available.

World

British queen makes historic peace trip to Ireland

DUBLIN (AP)—Sometimes words aren't necessary. That was the case Tuesday when Queen Elizabeth II placed a wreath in Dublin's Garden of Remembrance to honor the Irish rebels who lost their lives fighting for freedom—from Britain.

The queen became the first British monarch to set foot in Dublin for a century. Her four-day visit is designed to show that the bitter enmity of Ireland's war of independence 90 years ago has been replaced by Anglo-Irish friendship, and that peace has become irreversible in the neighboring British territory of Northern Ireland.

The ceremony under threatening steel-gray skies was simple and direct, its meaning clear. There were no apologies, no acknowledgment of misdeeds, but the presence of the British monarch on ground that is sacred to many Irish was a powerful statement of a desire to start anew.

Helicopters and fixed-wing aircraft patrolled the skies and marksmen kept watch on rooftops during the ceremony for any attempt by Ireland's most extreme nationalists to disrupt the event.

A few hundred supporters of Irish Republican Army dissident groups did clash with police on the security perimeter a half-mile (1 kilometer) away, but the trouble didn't interrupt the queen's carefully choreographed procession through Dublin.

Nor did the dissidents' efforts overnight to draw attention to themselves by planting a pipe bomb in a bus 15 miles (25 kilometers) away from Dublin and three hoax devices in the city itself.



Britain's Queen Elizabeth II, lays a wreath in the Garden of Remembrance in Dublin, Tuesday May 17, 2011.

Later, the dissident IRA protest degenerated into hooliganism along a working-class street of inner-city Dublin where anti-police sentiment typically runs high.

Scores of teenage boys and young men, some masked, threw lit firecrackers, flares and beer bottles at a line of helmeted, shielded riot police among dilapidated small shops and fast-food joints on Dorset Street. They set fire to the contents of garbage cans on side streets.

Police "snatch squads" surged forward occasionally to arrest individual rioters. By nightfall, at least 21 people were in custody. Police said no officers or civilians suffered any serious injuries.

Earlier, as the queen stood in silence alongside Irish President Mary McAleese, a flock of black balloons floated off in the distance, a silent protest by the nationalist Sinn Féin party.

But the event marked a successful first day of the queen's groundbreaking four-day visit to Ireland, a trip aimed at demonstrating that the former foes have reconciled their differences amid strong ties of culture and immigration, common economic interests, and a joint desire to bury the painful past.

Mary Daly, a historian and director of the College of Arts and Celtic Studies at University College Dublin, said the queen's gesture will be widely understood in Ireland.

WORLD BRIEFS

Another Gadhafi regime official defects

TRIPOLI, Libya (AP)—Another high-ranking Libyan official has defected and fled the country amid a widening NATO campaign of bombings as well as leafletting and other psychological warfare to persuade Moammar Gadhafi's troops to stop fighting. Shukri Ghanem, the Libyan oil minister and head of the National Oil Co., crossed into neighboring Tunisia by road on Monday, according to a Tunisian security official and Abdel Moneim al-Houni, a former Libyan Arab League representative who was among the first wave of Libyan diplomats to defect. The defections suggest Gadhafi's political structure is fraying, but it's unclear whether there is enough internal strife to seriously undermine his ability to fight rebel forces as NATO airstrikes pound Libyan military targets. Gadhafi appears to

retain the backing of his core of military commanders.

Egypt to release Mubarak's wife from detention

CAIRO (AP)—Egypt's Justice Ministry on Tuesday ordered the wife of deposed President Hosni Mubarak released from custody without bail, after she relinquished her disputed assets. Suzanne Mubarak, 70, has turned over her property and money to the state valued at some \$4 million. The move aimed to settle corruption allegations against her, but it was unclear whether she still faces trial. In a statement, Essam el-Gouhari, head of a state body investigating illegal financial transactions by officials of the deposed regime, said it was decided to release Mrs. Mubarak because of "lack of justification for detention after she turned over all the money

she amassed illicitly."

US, EU ready new sanctions on Syria

WASHINGTON (AP)—The United States and European Union said Tuesday they are preparing to hit Syria's leadership with new sanctions as it continues a brutal crackdown on anti-government protesters. The pledge came as the Obama administration stepped up its condemnation of the Syrian regime and for the first time suggested that the decades-long repressive rule of the country by the Assad family may have to end. Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton and EU foreign policy chief Catherine Ashton told reporters that Washington and Brussels were reviewing fresh penalties and would act fast. "We will be taking additional steps in the days ahead," Clinton said after meeting Ashton at the State Department.

Focus

Amid 'war on obesity,' skeptics warn of stigma

The images are striking: Overweight boys and girls staring somberly from billboards and online videos, real-life embodiments of the blunt messages alongside.

"Chubby kids may not outlive their parents," for example. Or: "Big bones didn't make me this way. Big meals did."

The ads—part of a new "Stop Child Obesity" campaign in Georgia—won some enthusiastic praise for their attention-grabbing tactics. But they also have outraged parents, activists, and academics who feel the result is more stigma for an already beleaguered and bullied group of children.

"Billboards depicting fat kids are extraordinarily harmful to the very kids they are supposedly trying to help," said the National Association to Advance Fat Acceptance, which called for the billboards' removal.

The Georgia Children's Health Alliance, which created the ads, said they were necessary to jar parents of obese kids out of a state of denial that their children had a problem.

The furor reflects a broader nationwide phenomenon as states, cities and the White House itself—led by first lady Michelle Obama—expand efforts to curb obesity. For all the public support of these efforts, there's also a vocal and passionate corps of skeptics and critics worried that widespread discrimination toward the overweight and obese will only increase.

"Stigma is not an effective motivator," said Rebecca Puhl, a Yale University psychologist who is a leading expert on weight discrimination. "Whether children or adults, if they are teased or stigmatized, they're much more likely to engage in unhealthy eating and avoidance of physical activity."

Research by Puhl and her colleagues at Yale's Rudd Center for Food Policy and Obesity suggests that weight discrimination is pervasive—at schools, in the workplace, in the media, among health care providers. Yet efforts to combat it frequently founder: Only one state, Michigan, outlaws weight discrimination, and the anti-bullying policies proliferating in schools often lack specific content related to teasing of overweight children.

The spotlight on obesity intensified last year when Michelle Obama unveiled her national public awareness campaign, "Let's Move." Its goal, she said, was to eliminate childhood obesity within a generation by helping parents make better food choices, serving healthier food in schools, and encouraging children to exercise more.

Many aspects of "Let's Move" won near-universal praise. But activists in the fat-acceptance movement and experts who espouse a "health at every size" approach were upset that the campaign encouraged the monitoring of children's body mass index, or BMI, and thus might contribute to stigmatization of heavier kids.

"The idea of a BMI report card is horrible," said Paul Ernsberger, a professor in the nutrition department at Case Western Reserve University's School of Medicine in Cleveland.

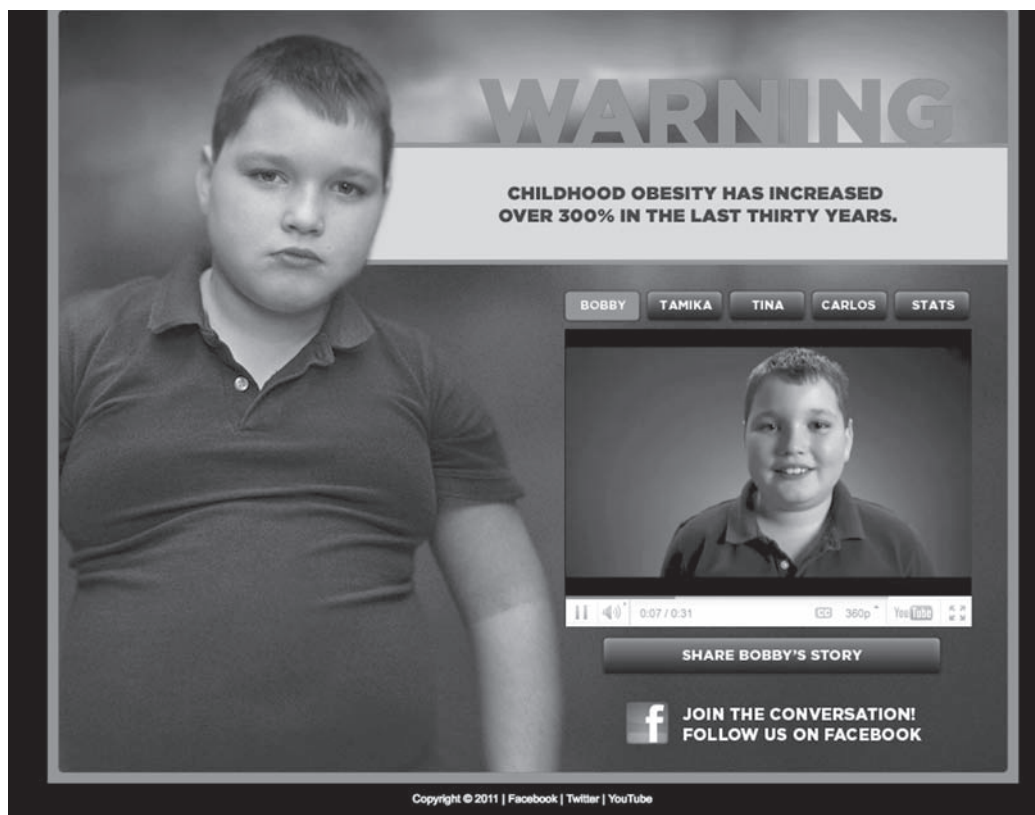
"To declare we're going to eliminate childhood obesity—that's actually a very stigmatizing thing to say," Ernsberger said. "The overweight child hears that and thinks, 'They wish I wasn't here.'"

Linda Bacon, a nutrition professor at City College of San Francisco, is the author of "Health At Every Size"—a manifesto for a movement stressing a healthy lifestyle rather than weight control. She said the focus by "Let's Move" on BMI was of dubious medical value and posed potential problems for kids at all weight levels.

"It's done much more damage than good," Bacon said. "The larger kids feel bad about themselves, and the thinner kids feel it doesn't matter whether they exercise or eat well."

Deb Lemire, president of the Association for Size Diversity and Health, credited Michelle Obama with good intentions and commended various nutrition-related aspects of "Let's Move." But she said the

By DAVID CRARY
AP NATIONAL WRITER



This image made Thursday, April 21, 2011 shows a page from the website www.stopchildhoodobesity.com. AP

emphasis on weight risked worsening the problems of teasing and bullying.

"The message that gets to the kids is, 'There really is something wrong with me,'" said Lemire, of Cuyahoga Falls, Ohio. "We're saying we love you, we want you to have wonderful lives and be successful, but right now you're just not good enough."

The first lady's press office declined to respond in detail to the criticism, but defended "Let's Move."

"There will always be critics, but our approach is comprehensive, nurturing and working, with success already seen across the country," the office said in an e-mail.

There's no question that "Let's Move" has broad, high-powered backing, from groups such as the

will reduce that risk."

Weight loss doesn't necessarily need to be the overriding goal in every case, she suggested, but it can be a vital part of countering diabetes, liver disease, sleep apnea and other obesity-related problems.

Critics of "Let's Move" say it could have struck a more positive tone about the diversity of body sizes and the possibility of being both large and healthy simultaneously.

"Regardless of her intentions, the first lady is making things worse," said San Francisco attorney Sondra Solovay, who teaches and writes about weight-based discrimination.

"I invite her to talk to fat adults who have experienced the hatred and discrimination firsthand," So-

Billboards depicting fat kids are extraordinarily harmful to the very kids they are supposedly trying to help.

American Academy of Pediatrics. Its supporters note that one in three American children are overweight or obese, putting them at higher risk of serious health problems while billions of dollars are spent yearly treating obesity-related conditions.

Dr. Sandra Hassink, who chairs the pediatrics academy's obesity work group, said she witnesses the toll of weight-based bullying on a daily basis at her clinic at the A.I. duPont Hospital for Children in Wilmington, Del.

However, she defended the use of BMI as a screening mechanism.

"We know that elevated BMI places you at elevated risk of health problems," she said. "It's a screening tool to start a conversation with a child and family about health behavior that

lovay said, "and ask them how this program would have impacted them as kids."

Several local and state anti-obesity initiatives also have drawn fire from weight-discrimination watchdogs—notably Arizona Gov. Jan Brewer's recent proposal to levy a \$50 fee on state Medicaid recipients who are obese and don't follow a doctor-supervised slimming regimen.

"This proposal does nothing to improve public health, and only perpetuates further stigma toward thousands of individuals whose quality of life is already reduced because of prejudice," Puhl wrote in her blog on Medscape.com.

One form of such prejudice is harassment at school. Peggy Howell, spokeswoman for the National Association to Ad-

vance Fat Acceptance, protested when members of Congress recently introduced a bill that addressed bullying based on race, ethnicity, gender, disability, sexual orientation and religion, but made no mention of body size.

"Why are weight and height missing?" Howell asked. "Multiple studies indicate that fat children are the group being most bullied."

Puhl says too little attention is paid to such bullying.

"Youth who are obese cannot conceal their weight—their stigma is very visible," she said. "And yet their voices are not being heard. They are so vulnerable to victimization, with such devastating consequences."

Indeed, weight-related bullying is being cited by family members as a possible factor in the decision of two 14-year-old Minnesota girls to commit suicide together on April 16.

Puhl, who has studied weight discrimination for more than a decade, was lead author of a 2007 study of overweight children that concluded their quality of life, due to stigmatization by peers, was comparable to that of people with cancer.

She also has examined how obese people are portrayed in ads, news reports, movies and TV shows. Too often, says Puhl, they are depicted in needlessly negative ways—slouching on a sofa, eating junk food.

"We need to be sure we are fighting obesity, not obese people," she says.

Among other initiatives, the Rudd Center has compiled a gallery of photographs portraying obese individuals "in ways that are positive and non-stereotypical"—strolling outdoors, shopping for fresh produce.

Puhl says her research indicates Americans would support legislation to prohibit weight discrimination, particularly in the workplace. Yet only Michigan and a handful of cities, including San Francisco and Santa Cruz, Calif., have such laws in place.

There's been little serious discussion in Congress or most legislatures about following Michigan's example by outlawing weight discrimination at the federal or state level. A bill introduced several times in Massachusetts has failed to advance; a similar proposal died in Nevada's legislature this year after employers objected.

Michigan's law, enacted in 1976, has resulted in only a handful of weight-related complaints each year, according to Michigan State University human resources professor Mark Roehling. He says many overweight workers may be hesitant to pursue legal remedies even if they do feel discriminated against.

One of the few high-profile lawsuits in Michigan involves two former waitresses who claim Hooters fired them in 2009 because they weren't sufficiently slim. Hooters officials say the state law shouldn't apply because the appearance of their waitresses was a legitimate concern. The case remains unresolved.

Meanwhile, fat-acceptance activists continue to struggle against what they perceive as bias—on matters such as airline seating and seatbelt standards that don't account for extra-large people.

Marilyn Wann, San Francisco-based author of the book "FAT!SO?," says she's proud to call herself fat, and objects to the terms "overweight" and "obese."

She became an activist partly because she was unable to buy affordable health insurance, and is grateful that the Obama-backed health care overhaul now enables her to get coverage. But she wishes the White House would do more to counter weight bias.

"I had a painful childhood, and it would be worse now because weight stigma has increased," she said. "It would be amazing if federal government took a stand against weight discrimination."

Hassink, the Delaware pediatrician, said obesity and weight discrimination should both be combatted firmly and compassionately.

"The environment is pretty tough for people struggling with their weight," Hassink said. "But we need to have the conversation. We're all in this together."

ON THE NET

- Georgia anti-obesity campaign: <http://www.stopchildhoodobesity.com/>
- Yale's Rudd Center: <http://www.yaleruddcenter.org/>
- Fat acceptance association: <http://www.naafonline.com/dev2/about/index.html>
- Michelle Obama's anti-obesity initiative: <http://www.letsmove.gov/>

Environment

'Nourish' yourself at the next First Friday Films

Narrated by actress Cameron Diaz, *Nourish* traces the journey of food from its origin to how it links a worldwide community. Discover the hidden map from seed to table. Event begins at 6:30pm at American Memorial Park!

First Friday Films is partnering with Northern Marianas College CREES to host this event. Come early to enjoy a presentation by a local farmer and visit displays in the lobby. At a time when prices are skyrocketing and people are making unhealthy food choices, the need to understand our food chain around the world is critical. Watch this film and learn why eating locally can benefit health, economy, and environment.

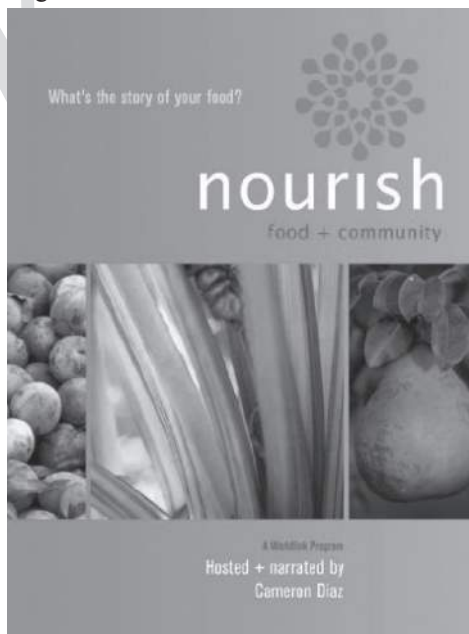
First Friday Films is a monthly film series

brought to you through a partnership with the National Park Service and the Division of Environmental Quality. *Nourish* was sponsored by the Tan Siu Lin Foundation.

The Pacific Historic Parks (formerly the Arizona Memorial Museum Association) Bookstore, located inside the visitor's center, will be open until 8:30pm. All proceeds go to community education programs.

For planning purposes, the movie runs about 30 minutes long. As always, First Friday Films is free and open to the public. Find more information about the film at www.firstfridayfilmssaipan.blogspot.com. Subscribe

to the blog for regular updates on upcoming events. (PR)



The real dirt on dry cleaning



"Do Your Part" and stop polluting your home by seeking out cleaners that use techniques that are better for you and our planet.

By TERRI BENNETT
MCCLATCHY NEWSPAPERS

aches and breathing problems to more severe problems like liver and kidney damage?

Did you know that every time you bring home your clothing from a traditional dry cleaner, you're bringing in dangerous chemicals that can cause anything from head-

Fact is, dry cleaning is an unavoidable fact of life for many of us. From work attire to that special evening gown, we all have a few items in our closets

with that dreaded "Dry Clean Only" label. Do Your Part and stop polluting your home by seeking out cleaners that use techniques that are better for you and our planet.

More than 80 percent of dry cleaners in this country use perchloroethylene (perc) as the cleaning agent. Perc is a man made compound that pollutes our air, land and water. The good news is that there are greener choices. New cleaners that use safer alternatives are popping up across the country and existing dry cleaners are converting to perc-free cleaners.

Today, there are four different types of cleaning techniques that do not use perc. One of the safest uses only water and biodegradable soap along with special dryers to keep the garments shape and size. Another technique uses only carbon dioxide to clean your clothes yet produces no new carbon dioxide in the process. The two remaining techniques use hydrocarbons or siloxane (D5) as the cleaning agent, both of which have concerns of their own. Using hydrocarbons releases volatile organic compounds (VOCs) into the air, an ingredient of ozone and smog. And the safety of siloxane, or D5, is still being debated although current research indicates that it is safer than using perc.

These so-called "green" dry cleaners can't be found in every city but it's certainly worth finding out if there is one near you. A simple online search for "green dry cleaners" in your town will get you started or visit DoYourPart.com/columns for specific guides to green dry cleaners.

If a conventional dry cleaner is still your only option, make sure you unwrap and air out your clothes before hanging them in a closet. You may also want to use home dry cleaning kits to help you spot clean your clothes, which are perc-free and economical.

And there are a few more ways to green your dry cleaning routine. To put an end to all those wasted plastic dry cleaning bags, check with your dry cleaner about bringing in a reusable garment bag to protect your clean clothes. Otherwise check for places that will accept that plastic wrap for recycling. Some dry cleaners will accept back their hangers but if yours is not one of them, donate your stockpile to a local charity.

No matter which route you choose to go with your dry cleaning, there are ways to Do Your Part for a cleaner planet and a healthier home.

Terri Bennett is a veteran TV meteorologist, syndicated columnist, and host of *DoYourPart.com* where you can find everyday green living ideas that are better for you and the planet. Send questions to terri@doyourpart.com.

In Loving Memory Raymond "Bo" Frank Alvarez

Familian Alabadu
October 16, 1945 - May 14, 2011

Formally of Sinajana, residing in Saipan was called home to our heavenly Father at the age of 65.

Entering into eternal life promised by Jesus, he now joins his Father: Arsenio Alvarez,
Mother: Francisca Taimanglo Navarro Alvarez, and Mother-in-Law: Isabel Cabrera Taitano.

His love and memories will continue to live on in the hearts of his

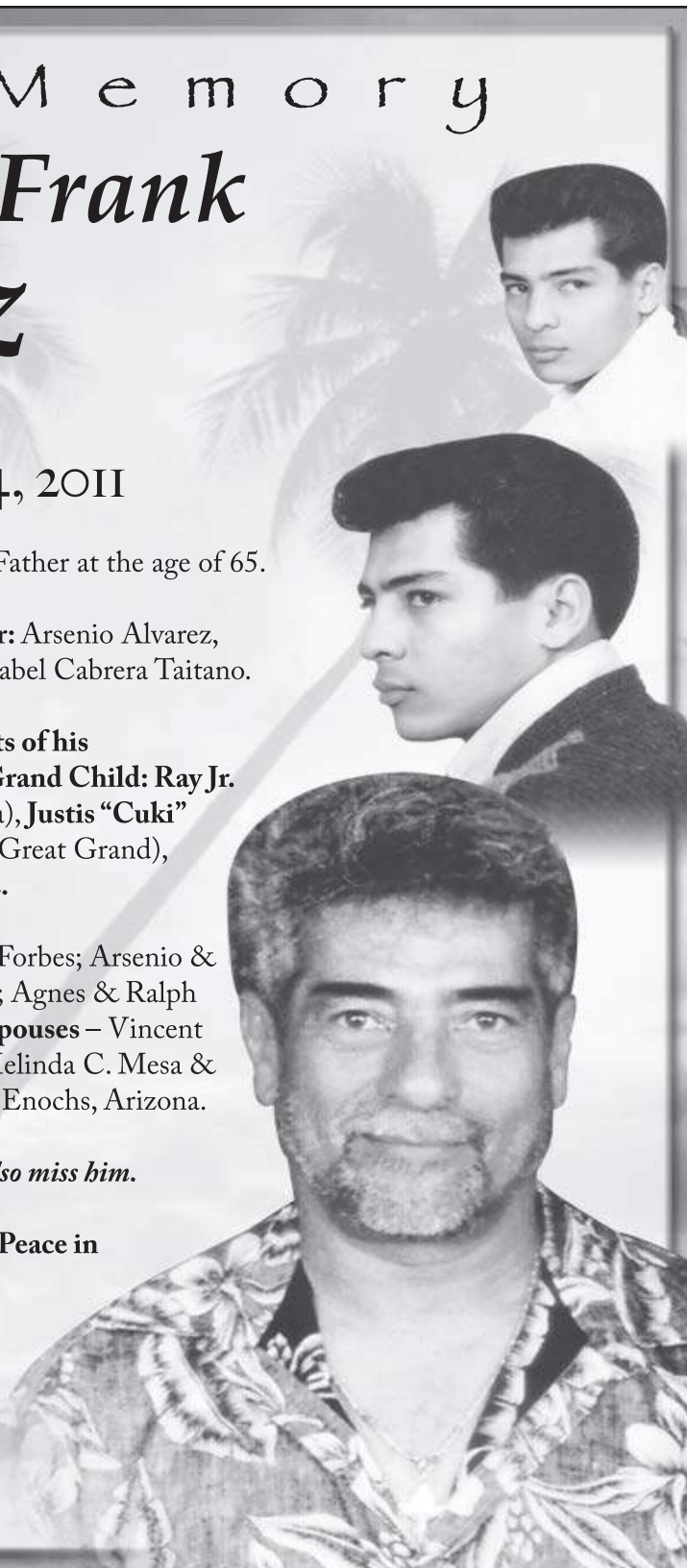
Wife: Linda Mesa Alvarez; **His Children/Spouses/Grandchildren/Great Grand Child:** Ray Jr. "Boss" & Sisi N. Alvarez-(Ray III, Nicholas, Deven, Samuel, Ryder, Vanna), Justis "Cuki" Alvarez & Mariana S. Palacios-(Alverick, Shane, Shaniah, Aldene Jayh (Great Grand), Tioni Mesa Tomokane Alvarez, Josenio Ray Mesa Alvarez.

Siblings and Spouses - Enrico and Hope Alvarez Cristobal; Angella Alvarez Forbes; Arsenio & Alice Alvarez; Pedro & Annie Alvarez (dec.); Manuel & Bernadette Alvarez; Agnes & Ralph Hurtado, Fremont, CA; Michael and Fay Alvarez; **(In-Laws) Siblings and Spouses** - Vincent C. & Doris Mesa, Saipan, CNMI; Jesse C. & Selina Mesa, Saipan CNMI; Melinda C. Mesa & Darrel V. Stewart; Peter John C. & Tanya F. Mesa; A.J. Taitano & Danielle Enochs, Arizona.

Numerous Aunts, Uncles, Cousins, Nieces, Nephews, and Friends will also miss him.

A family and friends prayer and viewing for Bo will be held at Our Lady of Peace in Barrigada, on Friday, May 20, 2011 from 9:00a.m.-1:00p.m.

Last Respects for Bo will be held in Saipan, CNMI on Wednesday, May 25, 2011, at Kristo Rai Church, Garapan, beginning at 8:00a.m. Mass of a Christian Burial will be offered at 10:00a.m. He will be laid to rest at the CNMI Veteran's Cemetery, Marpi, Saipan. Nightly Rosary being held at San Jose Church Saipan at 7pm.



Life & Style

Shriver: It's a 'painful and heartbreaking time'



AP
In this file photo taken Friday, Jan. 5, 2007, former California Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger kisses his wife, Maria Shriver, after taking his oath of office in Sacramento, Calif.

LOS ANGELES (AP)—He's one of the most famous people on the planet, a two-term governor of California, a movie star and a former world champion bodybuilder with a profile so huge that just one name, Arnold, instantly identifies him to almost everyone.

Yet somehow, for more than a decade, Arnold Schwarzenegger managed to keep an incredible secret from the public and his wife, prominent former TV journalist and Kennedy heiress Maria Shriver: that he fathered a child with a woman on his household staff more than a decade ago.

The revelation came Tuesday, just a week after Schwarzenegger and Shriver announced they had separated.

"I understand and deserve the feelings of anger and disappointment among my friends and family," Schwarzenegger wrote in a statement. "There are no excuses and I take full responsibility for the hurt I have caused. I have apologized to Maria, my children and my family. I am truly sorry."

Hours later, Shriver also released a statement: "This is a painful and heartbreaking time. As a mother, my concern is for the children. I ask for compassion, respect and privacy as my children and I try to rebuild our lives and heal. I will have no further comment."

Two of their four children posted on Twitter, expressing their love for their family.

"Some days you feel like s---, some days you want to quit and just be normal for a bit," tweeted 17-year-old Patrick Schwarzenegger, quoting the band Fort Minor's heartbreak

song "Where'd You Go." Adding his own words, he said, "Yet I love my family till death do us apart."

His 21-year-old sister, Katherine Schwarzenegger, followed later in the day. "This is definitely not easy but I appreciate your love and support as I begin to heal and move forward in life," she said. "I will always love my family!"

Schwarzenegger and Shriver jointly announced May 9 that they were splitting up after 25 years of marriage. She moved out of the family's Brentwood mansion after Schwarzenegger acknowledged the child is his, the Los Angeles Times reported Tuesday. For several weeks, she has been seen in public without her wedding ring.

Schwarzenegger said the child was born "over a decade ago"—before he began his seven-year stint as governor.

The Times did not publish the former staffer's name or that of her child but said she worked for the family for 20 years and retired in January.

Schwarzenegger issued his statement to the Times late Monday, after the newspaper interviewed the former staffer. The Times reported that she originally said another man—her husband at the time—was the child's father. When the newspaper informed her of the governor's statement, she declined to comment further.

Schwarzenegger later released his statement to The Associated Press and other news organizations.

What's most stunning about the revelation is how long he managed to keep his family—and the public—in the dark,

prominent Los Angeles divorce attorney Steve Mindel said, adding that Schwarzenegger may have been able to conceal signs, such as child support, because of his wealth.

"Clearly, Arnold has done a spectacular job of keeping it secret," he said.

Another prominent attorney, Gloria Allred, said it was likely that whatever settlement Schwarzenegger reached with the woman required that she never discuss the relationship publicly.

Schwarzenegger, 63, has been dogged for years by allegations

of womanizing. They almost derailed his move to politics in 2003 when he was elected to replace recalled Gov. Gray Davis.

Days before the election, the Times reported accusations from numerous women that the handsome, muscular star of the "Terminator" films and seven-time Mr. Olympia had groped them on movie sets. That was hardly his only brush with controversy.

He had jokingly smoked marijuana on camera in the bodybuilding documentary "Pumping Iron," and over the years before he married

Shriver, he had acknowledged a profligate sex life.

In a 1977 interview with the adult magazine Oui, he boasted of taking part in an orgy and of numerous other sexual exploits, some of them backstage at bodybuilding competitions.

During his gubernatorial campaign, he chalked those incidents up to youthful indiscretions, and during his years as governor presented himself as a dedicated family man.

Since leaving office, Schwarzenegger has hoppedscotched around the world, fashioning himself as a

spokesman for green energy and announcing plans to resume his movie career.

Shriver, however, was nowhere in sight. While the "Terminator" star appeared confident, Shriver, known for her confidence, seemed unsettled.

Shriver, 55, maintained her own identity when her husband entered politics, though she gave up her job at NBC. Their union was often tested in Sacramento, where the former action star contended with seven years of legislative gridlock, a budget crisis and lingering questions about his fidelity.

In Celebration of his new Life †Jose Bisionia Avila, Jr.

April 12, 1947 - May 14, 2011

His memories will forever live in the hearts of his:

Wife: Auria Borja Avila

Children and Grandchildren: Georgia C. Borja; Michelle B. Avila; Net and Edward Avila Gagni (Christian Edward); Nina and Eric Avila Sonsikoski; Jay and Michael Avila Magpayo (Paul Sebastian)

He will also be missed by his:

Father-In Law: Eugenio A. Borja Josefina Oblena

Brothers, Sisters, and In-Laws:

Emen B. Avila; Tina A. Magdaraog; Joel B. Avila; Gloria B. Avila; Manuel C. and Angie Borja; Ignacio C. and Acinta Borja; Justina C. Borja; Eusebio C. and Margarita Borja; Olivia B. and Augustin Aldan; Francisco C. and Margarita Borja; Flavia C. Borja; Anne B. and Almondo Santos; Vicente C. and Sachi Borja

In his new life, he now joins his:

Parents: Jose Sr. and Antonina Bisionia Avila

Mother-In-Law: Rosa Camacho Borja

Brother and Sisters: Naty A. Zuniega; Jovito B. Avila; Maria B. Avila

He is additionally survived by numerous aunts, uncles, nieces, nephews, other relatives and friends.

Mass of Intention is being celebrated each evening at 6:00 pm at St. Jude Thadeus Church, Koblerville and Holy Rosary is being recited at 7:30pm.

Funeral Services will be held tomorrow, Friday, May 20, 2011. His remains will be escorted from Nuestra Senora dela Paz Memorial Chapel to Kristo Rai Church at 7:30 am. Reponso Service will be at 8:00am followed by Holy Rosary. Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated at 10:00am. Interment Service will follow at Santuario PAX Memorial Gardens in Kagman, Saipan.

Please Joins Us In Prayers,
Thank you - Si Yuus Maase
Maraming salamat Po

Auria Borja Avila, Children and Family

Celebrities bid Oprah farewell at Chicago show

CHICAGO (AP)—Hollywood's A-list celebrities bid a star-studded farewell to Oprah Winfrey on Tuesday in a double-taping of her talk show that included messages from her fans around the world. "I feel the love and I thank you for it," Winfrey told the crowd at Chicago's United Center. "Thank you for being a part of this great night, this celebration of what you have done for 'The Oprah Winfrey Show.' You have made it possible for us to stand for 25 years."

Tom Hanks and then Tom Cruise greeted Winfrey after she came on stage to a standing ovation from the audience of 13,000 gathered for "Surprise Oprah! A Farewell Spectacular." Josh Groban and Patti LaBelle sang "Somewhere Over the Rainbow" as Winfrey sat in



Oprah Winfrey speaks as she is surrounded by, from left, Patti LaBelle, Beyoncé, Madonna, Dakota Fanning and Halle Berry during a star-studded double-taping of "Surprise Oprah! A Farewell Spectacular," Tuesday, May 17, 2011, in Chicago.

Michael Jordan appears at Oprah Winfrey farewell

CHICAGO (AP)—Michael Jordan surprised Oprah Winfrey at her farewell show at Chicago's United Center, where his statue sits outside.

Jordan was one of many celebrities who attended Tuesday night's "Surprise Oprah! A Farewell Spectacular."

Actor Will Smith introduced Jordan, describing the United Center as the "house

that Michael Jordan built."

Jordan came on stage and hugged Winfrey to loud cheers. Jordan led the Chicago Bulls to six NBA championships during the 1990s.

Winfrey yelled to the crowd, "M.J. is in the house!"

The basketball legend told Winfrey she has meant a lot to him and inspired him. He wished her the best and told her he loves her.

Aretha Franklin sings for Oprah at farewell show

CHICAGO (AP)—Aretha Franklin sang "Amazing Grace" to Oprah Winfrey during the talk show queen's farewell show.

The music legend came onstage in a white, one-shouldered gown for her performance. She was introduced by Winfrey's longtime partner, Stedman Graham. Franklin was one of several musical acts at Tuesday night's "Surprise Oprah! A Farewell Spectacular" at Chicago's

United Center.

Franklin's performance was punctuated by applause from the crowd of 13,000. She danced back and forth on the stage, clapping her hands and waving her arms. Winfrey went on stage near the end of the song and the two embraced.

Earlier during the taping, poet Maya Angelou recited a special poem for Winfrey accompanied by musician Alicia Keys.

Jerry Seinfeld, Will Smith bid Oprah farewell

CHICAGO (AP)—The leading men of Hollywood are paying tribute to talk show queen Oprah Winfrey.

Jerry Seinfeld, Jamie Foxx and Will Smith were among the celebrities at Chicago's United Center on Tuesday night for "Surprise Oprah! A Farewell Spectacular." The double-show taping also included Tom Cruise, Tom Hanks and John Legend.

Foxx started singing "Isn't She Lovely" to Winfrey and

was joined by Stevie Wonder. Seinfeld performed a comedy routine.

Earlier in the evening, Josh Groban and Patti LaBelle sang "Somewhere Over the Rainbow". Beyoncé and Rascal Flatts also performed. Madonna, Halle Berry, Queen Latifah, Katie Holmes and Diane Sawyer were there too.

Tuesday's taping will air May 23 and 24, before Winfrey's finale will air May 25.

a white chair onstage.

"Was that not the coolest?" Winfrey said when they finished. She announced in November 2009 that she would end her popular talk show after 25 years.

Madonna said she is among the millions of people who are inspired by Winfrey. "She fights for things she believes in, even if it makes her unpopular," Madonna said.

The taping of the second show began with Will Smith and his wife, Jada Pinkett Smith, who thanked Winfrey and told her she mothered millions and "that puts you in the status of a goddess."

Michael Jordan, who led the Chicago Bulls to six NBA championships during the 1990s, came on stage to hug Winfrey and tell her he loves her and she inspired him.

Jamie Foxx and Stevie Wonder sang "Isn't She Lovely" to Winfrey. Wonder followed with his own song, singing to her, "Oprah thank you for using your gifts to uplift so many hearts."

Simon Cowell made an appearance, Rosie O'Donnell sang a Broadway-style song and Jerry Seinfeld did a comedy routine.

Maria Shriver, the TV journalist and Kennedy heiress, appeared on the same day it was revealed her husband, Arnold Schwarzenegger, fathered a child with a woman on his household staff more than a decade ago. Shriver did not mention her husband during the taping.

"You have given me love, support, wisdom and most of all the truth," Shriver told Winfrey. "And I know I'm not alone in receiving those gifts from you."

Grammy winner John Legend was beamed in from a school in New Orleans, and actress Dakota Fanning led a group of children talking about Winfrey's influence on their lives. "You always had the power, and that is the message you brought into our lives," Cruise

told Winfrey.

Halle Berry, Queen Latifah, Katie Holmes and Diane Sawyer were there too. Beyoncé sang her song "Run the World (Girls)" backed by dozens of dancers. Rascal Flatts performed too.

"Oprah Winfrey because of you women everywhere have graduated to a new level of understanding of who we are, of what we are and most of all who we can be," Beyoncé said before starting her performance.

The stadium was decorated with pictures of Winfrey at seminal moments over the course of her talk show. Boxes of tissues were on scattered seats throughout the audience.

Before the taping, the guest lineup for "Surprise Oprah! A Farewell Spectacular" was a secret, but the show quickly delivered on promises from Winfrey's producers that the biggest names in Hollywood would be there.

Tuesday's taping will air May 23 and 24, before Winfrey's fi-

nal show on May 25.

Harpo Productions received more than 154,000 ticket requests for seats to Tuesday's event. Tickets were free and distributed to fans through a lottery.

Winfrey also received messages from some not-so-famous admirers. Female American soldiers gave a taped message from Iraq and three female fans from countries around the world came on stage. Scholarship recipients from Morehouse College walked along the United Center aisles as Kristen Chenoweth sang "For Good" from the musical "Wicked."

Fans started lining up outside hours before the taping started.

Cathy Deters, 52, of Cincinnati, drove to Chicago without a ticket, but someone outside the stadium gave her one.

"I don't think anyone could replace Oprah Winfrey," said Deters, an energy broker. "Not many people will have the chance to experience this."

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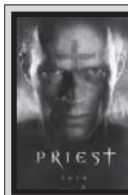
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Priest

Friday 4:10 7:10 9:50
Saturday & Sunday 1:10 4:10 7:10 9:50
Mon thru Thurs 4:10 7:10

Paul Bettany, Cam Gigandet
Horror • Western • Rated PG 13

Synopsis

Paul Bettany re-teams with Legion director Scott Stewart for this Screen Gems adaptation of the TokyoPop comic. In the film, a priest (Bettany) heads up a team with a sheriff (Cam Gigandet) and a warrior priestess (Maggie Q) to hunt down a vampiric tribe in an attempt to track down his kidnapped niece. True Blood's Stephen Moyer co-stars with 90210's Lily Collins.



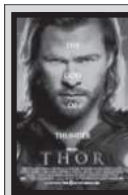
Bridesmaids

Friday 4:00 7:00 9:30
Saturday & Sunday 1:00 4:00 7:00 9:30
Mon thru Thurs 4:00 7:00

Kristen Wiig, Maya Rudolph
Comedy drama • Rated R

Synopsis

Director Paul Feig and producer Judd Apatow team with co-writers Kristen Wiig and Annie Mumolo for this comedy about a devoted maid of honor whose life falls into ruin as she plans her best friend's dream wedding. Upon hearing the news that Lillian (Maya Rudolph) has gotten engaged, ecstatic Annie (Wiig) leaps at the chance to plan the perfect wedding.



Thor

Friday 4:05 7:05 9:45
Saturday & Sunday 1:05 4:05 7:05
Mon thru Thurs 4:05 7:05

Chris Hemsworth, Natalie Portman
Action • Rated PG 13

Synopsis

As the son of Odin (Anthony Hopkins), the king of the Norse gods, Thor (Chris Hemsworth) is soon to inherit the throne of Asgard from his aging father. However, on the day that he is to be crowned, Thor reacts with brutality when the gods' enemies, the Frost Giants, enter the palace in violation of their treaty. As punishment, Odin banishes Thor to Earth. While Loki (Tom Hiddleston), Thor's brother, plots mischief in Asgard, Thor, now stripped of his powers, faces his greatest threat yet.



Something Borrowed

Friday 4:25 7:25 9:40
Saturday & Sunday 1:25 4:25 7:25
Mon thru Thurs 4:25 7:25

Kate Hudson, Ginnifer Goodwin
Comedy drama • Rated PG 13



Beastly

Friday 4:30 7:30 9:55
Saturday & Sunday 1:30 4:30 7:30
Mon thru Thurs 4:30 7:30

Alex Pettyfer, Vanessa Hudgens
Fantasy • Rated PG 13



Fast Five

Friday 4:15 7:15 10:00
Saturday & Sunday 1:15 4:15 7:15
Mon thru Thurs 4:15 7:15

Vin Diesel, Paul Walker
Action • Rated PG 13



Rio

Friday 4:20 7:20 9:35
Saturday & Sunday 1:20 4:20 7:20
Mon thru Thurs 4:20 7:20

Anne Hathaway, will.i.am
Children's/family • Rated G

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'Dancing With the Stars' final slate of 3 is set

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Ralph Macchio has done his last dance, leaving football star Hines Ward and actresses Kirstie Alley and Chelsea Kane to compete for the "Dancing With the Stars" title.

The 49-year-old actor was eliminated Tuesday from the hit ABC show.

Macchio came into the episode in last place. He and professional partner Karina Smirnoff earned 48 points for their two semifinal dances.

Judges' scores are combined with viewer votes to determine who is eliminated from the competition each week.

Stevie Nicks performed two songs: Her new single, "Secret Love," and the Fleetwood Mac classic "Landslide."

The three finalists will each perform two dances on Monday's episode. A new "Dancing" champ will be crowned on May 24.

Ex-French-first lady: Sarkozy baby news wonderful

PARIS (AP)—The expectant granddad has spilled the beans: Carla Bruni-Sarkozy is pregnant.

Germany's top-selling newspaper on Tuesday quoted President Nicolas Sarkozy's father as saying that the first lady is having a baby. And one of her predecessors says a child at the presidential palace will be wonderful for the whole country. "It's wonderful news to see this baby coming. It's a chance for France, absolutely," Bernadette

Chirac, wife of ex-French President Jacques Chirac, told reporters in Paris on Tuesday at an event for a literacy foundation hosted by Bruni-Sarkozy.

"And a birth, it's a wonderful event for a family, the arrival of a child. There is nothing nicer. A baby at the Elysee, yes. It's wonderful for them and for all the French people," Chirac said.

Bruni-Sarkozy, also attending the event, wouldn't respond to questions by The

Associated Press about the pregnancy. Sarkozy's office also refused all comment.

Germany's Bild newspaper quoted Pal Sarkozy as saying: "Neither wants to know the gender beforehand, but I'm certain it will be a girl, and beautiful like Carla."

A pregnancy could be a potential strategic coup for Sarkozy, less than a year ahead of presidential elections. The incumbent's popularity is in

the doldrums, but a baby in the Elysee Palace could help voters relate to a man they have seen as increasingly out of touch with their worries.

Reports of her pregnancy first surfaced in late April, when gossip magazine Closer ran a story saying the 43-year-old first lady was three months pregnant. The magazine said that officials were keeping it under wraps because her age makes it a high-risk pregnancy.

Chris Brown leads with 6 nods at 2011 BET Awards



In this March 21, 2011 file photo, singer Chris Brown performs on BET's 106 & Park show in New York.

NEW YORK (AP)—Last year at the BET Awards, Chris Brown performed an emotional tribute to Michael Jackson. It marked the beginning of a comeback for the embattled pop star.

This year, Brown is the top contender at the award show with six nominations.

Brown is up for best male R&B artist, viewer's choice and video of the year for "Look at Me Now." He's nominated twice in the best collaboration category for his No. 1 R&B hits

"Deuces," featuring Tyga and Kevin McCall, and "Look at Me Now," with Busta Rhymes and Lil Wayne. Brown is also nominated for best actor for his role in the heist thriller "Takers."

Lil Wayne follows Brown with five nominations. Three of Lil Wayne's nominations come from his guest appearance on Brown's "Look at me Now"; Lil Wayne is also up for best male hip-hop artist and viewer's choice for "6 Foot 7 Foot."

Kanye West, Drake and Rihanna are up for four awards each.

Other nominees for video of the year include Willow Smith's "Whip My Hair," West's "Runaway," B.o.B's "Airplanes," Keri Hilson's "Pretty Girl Rock" and Marsha Ambrosius' "Far Away."

Willow is also up for best new artist and the YoungStars award. Nicki Minaj, Bruno Mars, Trey Songz, Cee Lo Green and B.o.B also received multiple nominations.

Alicia Keys will perform and comedian Kevin Hart will host the award show. It airs live on June 26 from the Shrine Auditorium in Los Angeles.

Mel Gibson adds voice to Foster, 'Beaver' at Cannes

CANNES, France (AP)—In Mel Gibson's new movie "The Beaver" a hand puppet does most of his talking. At the Cannes Film Festival, Jodie Foster continued to supply most of the words for her pal, though Gibson did share a few wry quips.

Foster, director and co-star of the darkly comic drama, spoke for an absent Gibson at Tuesday's news conference for the

movie, which arrives after the latest scandal in his private life.

Gibson did turn up on the red carpet for the festival's glitzy premiere of "The Beaver" later, and though Foster had predicted he would not be talking, Gibson had a ready answer when a festival interviewer asked him how he got into the dark head space of his character.

"I faked it," Gibson said, before adding, "Hey, I don't know. It doesn't bear too much analysis."

Gibson has stayed out of the limelight in the months leading up to the U.S. theatrical debut of "The Beaver" on May 6, while Foster has been out publicizing the film and defending her star after his ugly breakup from then girlfriend Oksana Grigorieva, who had accused Gibson of striking her. Gibson pleaded no-contest and has been sentenced to three years probation for the incident.

As Foster was editing "The Beaver" last year, recordings surfaced of disturbing arguments riddled with sexist and racist comments that purportedly occurred between Gibson and Grigorieva.



Actors Jodie Foster, left, and Mel Gibson arrive for the screening of "The Beaver" at the 64th international film festival, in Cannes, southern France, Tuesday, May 17, 2011.

Readers advise angry student to make the most of college

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE



Dear Abby

DEAR ABBY: May I respond to "Bound for College" (April 9), the high school senior who is distressed because she may have to go to a state university?

This is America, the land of opportunity, NOT the land of entitlement. A college education is a luxury, not a right. How fortunate she is to have parents who can send her to college. It is my hope that her father does get that job at the university. What an excellent benefit he will have to get reduced tuition for his offspring.

If, however, that is not good enough for her, it is her right to refuse that gift. Then she may go to the school of her choice AND pay for it herself. With the cost of tuition today, that will be quite an undertaking. There are a number of options: student loans, grants, scholarships, a job or an enlistment in the military.

As you mentioned, Abby, in your response, education is what you make of it. My suggestion to "Bound for College" is, lose the attitude of entitlement, look at how blessed you are, rethink your priorities and make the most of your opportunities.

MIKE M. IN BLOOMSBURG, PA.

DEAR MIKE: Thank you for your letter. Readers unanimously agreed that "Bound" needs to make the most of the opportunities that come her way and start thinking and acting like an adult. Read on:

DEAR ABBY: I could have written the same letter years ago. The similarities are uncanny. I was accepted to my dream school, but due to my family's financial difficulties, I ended up attending my backup school, one of the largest public institutions in the country.

During the first semester, I was bitter and angry. Slowly but surely, I began to appreciate the benefits unique to a large state university. I enrolled in an honors academic program, which allowed me to receive a rigorous education from an amazing faculty. I became exposed to people from different cultures with differing perspectives. There were numerous student organizations and clubs. I found new hobbies and became active in causes that were important to me. Although I was worried about the school's party reputation, I quickly found other students who felt the same way I did.

"Bound," the college experience will be what you make of it. For me, it was instrumental in shaping my future. I took advantage of the many resources available on campus. It opened up avenues for me and, most important, helped me to discover myself. I will be starting graduate school as a financially independent adult, and I can finally do it on my own terms.

SOPHIA K., ARLINGTON, TEXAS

DEAR ABBY: You can party at any school, and you can get an education at any school. To a large extent, you get out what you put in. Yes, there may be distractions on some campuses, but there will always be academically inclined students and opportunities if one looks for them. The "fit" of a school can't really be determined until one gets there. So "Bound" should go where it is affordable and keep an open mind. She may find opportunities she has not yet considered.

L.C. IN CHARLESTON, ILL.

DEAR ABBY: Like "Bound," my parents promised I could go to any school I wanted. I applied to one school and got in, but my parents told me I'd have to take out a loan if I wanted to go there instead of a state school (something that was never mentioned). I took the news hard and resented that I was being forced to make my first adult decision and would have debt when I graduated.

I chose to stay in-state. The school was a party school, and I spent most of my freshman year angry that I was there. A year later, my anger was gone. Abby, please advise "Bound" that it's what you make of the college experience that counts.

BEEN THERE IN RICHMOND, VA.

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

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SHOWBIZ TIDBITS

Shakira: Chavez's guitar among 6 signed in Caracas

BOGOTA, Colombia (AP)—The Colombian singer Shakira says she learned after the fact that one of six guitars she signed at a concert in Venezuela made its way to President Hugo Chavez. Chavez had thanked Shakira for the red guitar over the weekend, suggesting he believed it was a gift. But Shakira's press office says in a statement that during her March concert, the artist "signed 6 guitars at the request of the event's organizers." It added she learned Monday that "one of them was sent to the President's office." Shakira's office says it hopes "acts like this contribute to continue uniting the citizens" of Colombia and Venezuela. Information Minister Andres Izarra had said

the guitar had been sent by "the people who organized her concert."

The Who's Pete Townshend writing memoir

NEW YORK (AP)—Pete Townshend has more to say about his generation. The Who's guitarist and songwriter, known for such classics as "My Generation," "I Can See for Miles" and the "Tommy" rock opera, is writing his autobiography. HarperCollins announced Tuesday that the book, currently untitled, would come out in the fall of 2012. Townshend, who turns 66 on Thursday, has long been of rock's most introspective and self-consciously literary artists. In a statement issued through his publisher, he said the book was "not a vanity for me," but an "essential rite of passage."

Lisa Edelstein says she won't be back in 'House'

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Lisa Edelstein is checking out of Fox TV's "House." In a statement Tuesday, the actress said she is leaving the medical series after seven years as Dr. Lisa Cuddy. The decision followed much consideration and brings mixed feelings, Edelstein said: She's disappointed at leaving a character she loved playing but is excited about the opportunities in acting and producing that are ahead. Edelstein didn't offer details on her plans. "House" stars Hugh Laurie in the title role of a cranky but brilliant doctor. He and Edelstein's Cuddy, a hospital administrator, had explored a relationship this season. "House" will return this fall at 9 p.m. EDT Monday, Fox announced this week.

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5 Pigeon's remark

8 Wound cover

12 Modern-day money

13 That guy

14 Collins or Donahue

15 First place

16 "The Greatest"

17 Stow cargo

18 Landlord

20 In layers

22 Blackbird

23 Shell game

24 Start of the XIIIth century

27 Backed, as a motion

32 Cheery word?

33 — jongg

34 Gabor or Longoria

DOWN

35 Severe injuries

38 Worked with

39 Genetic matter

40 Decay

42 Puts up

45 Reactions

49 Lotion additive

50 Shelter

52 — moss

53 Picnic invaders

54 Bobby of hockey

55 Greek vowel

56 Glaswegian

57 Petrol

58 Unsigned (Abbr.)

21 Wall St. debut

24 "The A-Team"

25 Auto

26 "— of Fire"

28 Consume

29 San Diego squad

30 First lady?

31 Old man

36 If not

37 Crazy

38 Perfect place

41 Other-wise

42 False god

43 Arm bone

44 Trudge (through)

46 Very long time

47 Peace-keeping org.

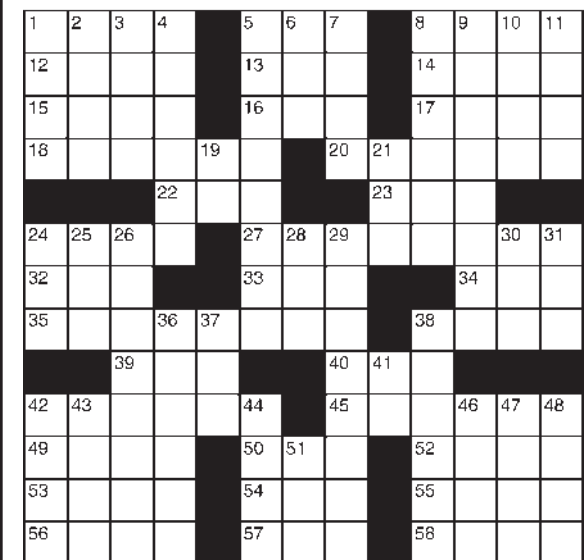
48 Ollie's partner

51 Historic period

Solution time: 25 mins.

C	A	S	S	A	G	O	H	M	S
A	R	C	H	P	O	D	L	E	A
M	E	A	T	H	E	A	D	A	T
P	A	T	I	O	S	L	I	D	E
P	A	C	K	O	R	T	S	O	R
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D	A	W	S	T	I	R			
T	O	D	I	N	E	L	I	M	B
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L	A	C	E	I	A	E	R	S	I
E	L	K	S	N	E	W	S	E	T

Yesterday's answer 5-19



STUMPED?

For answers to today's crossword, call 1-900-226-5955! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Rebecca Hall, 29; Grace Jones, 63; Pete Townshend, 66; Nora Ephron, 70

Happy Birthday: Sign contracts, address settlements and take care of pending medical or legal issues. Good fortune will enable you to surpass any competition. This is a great year to invest in your talents. An inventive approach to work will lead to a better position and status. Your numbers are 4, 6, 14, 23, 28, 32, 41

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Experience new lifestyles. Express your feelings and discuss your plans with the people you care about most. Taking control of the influences in your life is the first step to finding happiness and peace of mind. ★★★★★

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): There is money to be made or a life-altering change heading your way. You will see a shift take place that will lead to long-term improvements. There is something to be learned from someone with a different background or life experience. ★★★

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): A partnership must be brought out into the open. Secret meetings or hiding what's going on in your personal life will only make it more difficult to share your situation as time passes by. Move on quickly from a no-win relationship. ★★★

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Someone you have known in the past can help you regarding work and employment. The uncertainty you have been going through will change if you aren't too proud to accept help. Don't let someone close to you ruin your day with negativity. ★★★

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Combine business with industry events or entertainment. Opportunities are present and it will be your charm and friendly nature that will endear you to those you meet and will ultimately want to work with you. Change is apparent. ★★★★★

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Open up and express how you feel about what others are doing. This is a great day to find solutions to any problems you might have or to get to the bottom of a situation that has been left open-ended. Love is in the stars. ★★

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Put more emphasis on home and personal investments. Opportunities are present but you have to be prepared if you want to take advantage. An added responsibility may seem daunting but, if you do what's required, you will put it behind you quickly and efficiently. ★★★★★

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Partnerships will make the biggest difference in both your personal and professional lives. Look at those who complement you the most mentally, physically, financially and emotionally. Reopen the possibilities of an old idea or project you put on the back burner. ★★★★★

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Don't let confusion or deceit stand in the way of necessary change to the way you live your life. Emotions will be close to the surface but facing the facts and making adjustments are a must. Socialize and make new friends. ★★★★★

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): The very things that have held you back in the past are now welcoming you with

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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open arms. You have nothing to fear and everything to gain by making your moves and putting your long-term plans into action. ★★★

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): A work-related matter has the potential to turn into an opportunity. Don't let a bully or someone who doesn't have your best interests at heart stand in your way. Don't let a new or a past lover confuse matters. Question the motives of others today. ★★★★★

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Be realistic about what you can and cannot do. Look back at your past record and recognize who has been at fault before you write off someone you need in your life now. Forgive and forget. ★★

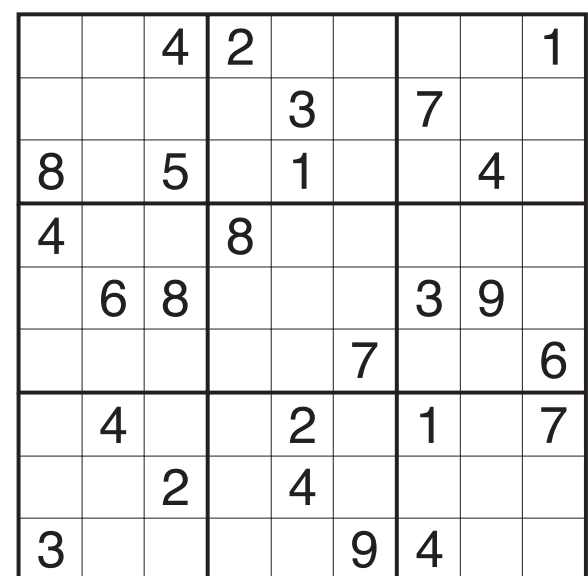
Birthday Baby: You are generous and friendly, charming and unique. You are responsible and caring.

Eugenia's Web sites: eugenialast.com for confidential consultations, eugenialast.com/blog/ for Eugenia's blog and join Eugenia on twitter/facebook/linkedin

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku

By Dave Green

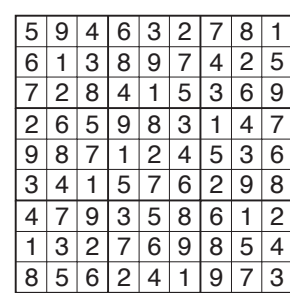


Difficulty Level ★★★

5/19

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Wednesday's SUDOKU Answer



Difficulty Level ★★★

5/18

WONDERWORD

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORDS. The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

BLUE MOUNTAIN COFFEE

Solution: 9 letters



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Acid, Aroma, Clifton Mount, Cool, Cultivation, Defined, Designated, Development, Estate, Exquisite, Fertile, Foothill, Fragile, Geographical, Grading, Jablum, Jamaica, Latest, Lawes, Living, Medley, Name, Oldest, Old Tavern, Plantations, Plants, Pulperies, Quality, Rare, Roasters, Stage, St. Andrew, St. Thomas, Sweet, Tourists, Watered

Yesterday's Answer: Super Food

SALE: The "Super Food" is a new product that is being sold in the United States. It is a new product that is being sold in the United States. It is a new product that is being sold in the United States.

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WHATZIT Solution:
Divided loyalties

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• 5-Liner	\$24	\$39
• 3-Liner with picture	\$24	\$42
• 5-Liner with picture	\$36	\$57

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Classified Ads

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Saturday Issue:
■ All ads placed Friday before 12 noon will come out Saturday issue and anything placed thereafter will be published on Monday issue.

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Classified Ads

Cancellations should be made before 12 noon of the day prior to date of publication.

REFUNDS

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All advertising in the Saipan Tribune are subject to applicable rate sheet, copies of which are available from the Advertising Sales Department (please call 235-8747, 235-2769 or 235-6397). All ads will be subject to approval prior to publication. We reserve the right to edit, refuse, reject or cancel any ad at any time. Also, Saipan Tribune reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

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Agape Christian School is looking for an experienced High School English Teacher for School Year 2011-2012. If interested, please email resume to cimsaipan@gmail.com

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation

Job Vacancy Announcement

Job Vacancy No. 11-027

Opening Date: Monday, May 9, 2011
Closing Date: Friday, May 20, 2011

ACCOUNTANT

DUTIES: Under the overall supervision of the Chief Financial Officer or his/her designee, the incumbents duties and responsibilities are as follows: Responsible for performing journey level accounting or finance related activities. May supervise accounting support staff to include: prioritizing and assigning work; conducting performance evaluations; ensuring staff are trained; and, making hiring, termination, and disciplinary recommendations. Maintains, monitors, and balances assigned funds. Performs professional accounting responsibilities, which includes: preparing general journal entries; ensuring proper departmental approvals; auditing accounts; assisting with annual audits; and, performing other related activities. Researches information on accounts for customers, internal departments, and other interested parties. Prepares, reviews, and submits a variety of reports, reconciliations, and statements to and from internal departments, financial institutions, and/or Local, State, and Federal agencies. Performs month-end and year-end closing of books of accounts for assigned funds. Performs other duties of a similar nature or level. SUBJECT TO PRE-EMPLOYMENT DRUG SCREENING.

LOCATION: Commonwealth Utilities Corporation, Accounting Office, SAIPAN.

SALARY: \$27,826 - \$41,794 per annum, un-classified, ungraded.

POSITIONS: One.

MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS: Bachelor's Degree in Accounting and zero to four years of professional level accounting experience. Knowledge of: Supervisory principles; Generally Accepted Accounting Principles and other applicable laws, rules and regulations; Basic mathematics; Fixed asset accounting. Skill in: Monitoring and evaluating staff; Prioritizing and assigning work to staff; Applying Federal, State, and/or Local laws, rules, and regulations; Performing mathematical calculations; Applying accounting procedures and principles; Recording, analyzing, verifying, reconciling, and reporting accounting transactions; Operating a 10-key machine; Preparing and analyzing financial statements and reports; Using computers and related software applications; Communication, interpersonal skills as applied to interaction with coworkers, supervisor, the general public, etc. sufficient to exchange or convey information and to receive work direction. APPLICANTS MAY BE TESTED.

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Commonwealth Utilities Corporation

Job Vacancy Re-Announcement

Job Vacancy No. 11-025

Opening Date: Monday, May 9, 2011
Closing Date: Friday, May 20, 2011

FINANCIAL ACCOUNTS SPECIALIST

DUTIES: Under the overall supervision of the division manager or his/her designee, the incumbents duties and responsibilities are as follows: Responsible for performing paraprofessional financial related duties. May supervise lower level staff to include: prioritizing and assigning work; conducting performance evaluations; ensuring staff are trained; and, making hiring, termination, and disciplinary recommendations. Performs paraprofessional financial support activities to include: researches, collects, analyzes, and reconciles billing information from disputed accounts. Compiles documents to prepare billing adjustments and completes documents to support adjustments. Prepares written responses to customers of approved dispute resolutions. Initiates telephone contact and maintains proper follow up with customers. Tracks and reviews pending service orders for filed investigations. Assists in the preparation of variety of reports to and from internal departments that will assist in effectively resolving customer disputes in a timely manner. Establishes and maintains positive interactions with internal departments to resolve customer disputes timely. Assists in the preparation and reviews of required documents for Administrative Hearings. Performs other duties of a similar nature or level. SUBJECT TO PRE-EMPLOYMENT DRUG SCREENING.

LOCATION: Commonwealth Utilities Corporation, Accounting Office, SAIPAN.

SALARY: \$23,200.00 to \$28,000.00 per annum, un-classified, un-graded.

POSITIONS: Two.

MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS: Associate Degree or equivalent "plus" one to four years progressively responsible experience in Accounting, Finance, Administrative, or Customer Service. Knowledge of: Supervisory principles; Administrative Procedures; Customer service principles and other applicable laws, rules, regulations; Basic mathematics; Telephone etiquette; Office policies and procedures. Skills in: Monitoring and evaluating staff; Prioritizing and assigning work to staff; Providing customer service; Applying Federal, State, and/or Local Laws, rules, and regulations; Performing mathematical calculations; Applying accounting/financial principles; Recording analyzing, verifying, reconciling, and reporting of transactions; Operating a 10-key machine; Preparing and analyzing reports; Using a computer and related software applications; Communication, interpersonal skills as applied to interaction with coworkers, supervisor, the general public, etc. sufficient to exchange or convey information and to receive work direction. APPLICANTS MAY BE TESTED.

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Commonwealth Utilities Corporation

Job Vacancy Announcement

Job Vacancy No. 11-028

Opening Date: Monday, May 9, 2011
Closing Date: Friday, May 20, 2011

ACCOUNTING SPECIALIST

DUTIES: Under the overall supervision of the Chief Financial Officer or his/her designee, the incumbents duties and responsibilities are as follows: Responsible for performing paraprofessional accounting duties. May supervise lower level staff to include: prioritizing and assigning work; conducting performance evaluations; ensuring staff are trained; and, making hiring, termination, and disciplinary recommendations. Performs paraprofessional accounting support activities to include: verifying fund balances and obligating expenditures; reviewing open accounts and contracts; editing, posting delinquency notices and disconnection lists; preparing service orders for termination of accounts; processing travel documents; maintaining subsidiary ledgers; and, processing and filing payroll documents. Generates, reviews, analyzes, edits and distributes a wide variety of reports. Establishes and maintains filing systems. Receives and responds to complex customer complaints. Performs other duties of a similar nature or level. SUBJECT TO PRE-EMPLOYMENT DRUG SCREENING.

LOCATION: Commonwealth Utilities Corporation, Accounting Office, SAIPAN.

SALARY: \$20,000 to \$26,000 per annum, un-classified, un-graded.

POSITIONS: One.

MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS: Associate Degree in Accounting and zero to three years of progressively responsible experience related to the area of assignment. Knowledge of: Supervisory principles; Basic budgeting principles; Basic accounting principles; Billing procedures; Basic mathematical concepts; Customer service principles; Banking procedures. Skill in: Monitoring and evaluating staff; Prioritizing and assigning work to staff; Providing customer service; Paying attention to detail in order to find errors; Performing basic mathematical calculations; Maintaining records; Preparing reports; Reconciling accounts and ledgers; Using a computer and related software applications; Communication, interpersonal skills as applied to interaction with coworkers, supervisor, the general public, etc. sufficient to exchange or convey information and to receive work direction. APPLICANTS MAY BE TESTED.

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Nowitzki's 48 lead Mavs past Thunder in Game 1



DALLAS (AP)—Dirk Nowitzki showed no rust from a long layoff, making 10 of his first 11 shots and an NBA playoff-record 24 straight free throws on the way to 48 points, leading the Dallas Mavericks to a 121-112 victory over the Oklahoma City Thunder in Game 1 of the Western Conference finals on Tuesday night.

Jason Terry scored 24 points and J.J. Barea added 21 points as the Mavericks picked up where they left off in a sweep of the Lakers nine days before. They broke open a tight game with a 13-0 run late in the second quarter and never trailed again, stretching their franchise-record postseason winning streak to seven games.

Game 2 is Thursday night in Dallas, where the Mavs are 6-0 this postseason.

The Thunder—fresh off a seven-game series against Memphis that included a total of four overtimes—led by nine early in the second quarter, then went 6:28 between baskets. They missed 10 shots during that drought and were down by 11 when it ended. They eventually trailed by 16 before clawing within five points with 3:42 left, and six with 48.5 seconds to play.

Kevin Durant followed his 39 points in Game 7 of the previous round by scoring 40, one shy of his most ever in a playoff game. While Nowitzki dominated, Durant's scoring binge merely helped his team stay close.

Russell Westbrook went from a triple-double in his last game to 20 points, three assists and three rebounds. He missed 12 of his 15 shots, including 10 of his first 11. Despite his poor aim, he had taken more shots than Durant at one point late in the third quarter, fueling the critics who say he's too much of a scorer and not enough of a distributor.

The Thunder's big problem, though, was Nowitzki.

Six guys tried stopping him, and the big German either shot over them or put them in foul trouble. He made 13 free throws in the third quarter alone. And when Oklahoma City sent a second defender at him, Nowitzki usually passed to the teammate left open.

Nowitzki finished 12 of 15 and a perfect 24 of 24 at the line. It was the most by anyone this postseason and two points shy of his most ever in a playoff game. He also had six rebounds, four assists and four blocks.

How good was he? On the series when Nowitzki



Dallas Mavericks forward Dirk Nowitzki (41) shoots against Oklahoma City Thunder center Kendrick Perkins (5) during the first half of Game 1 of the NBA basketball Western Conference finals Tuesday, May 17, 2011, in Dallas.

missed for the first time, a teammate got the ball back to him, and he found Tyson Chandler for a layup.

"I was really looking to shoot early and was able to get my rhythm after the first couple of shots," Nowitzki said. "I kept attacking and my teammates

kept feeding me and feeding me and I was able to take advantage over some smaller players."

The Thunder came into the series unsure how it would handle Nowitzki because their usual defender, Jeff Green, was traded in February. Serge

Ibaka went at him first, then got two quick fouls, turning things over to Nick Collison. Kendrick Perkins, Durant, Thabo Sefolosha and James Harden all took turns with little success.

When things tightened up in the final minutes, Nowitzki helped protect Dallas' lead with two jumpers over the outstretched arms of 6-foot-10 Serge Ibaka, and an assist on a 3-pointer by Terry with 28.9 seconds left. Chants of "M-V-P!" echoed almost every time he went to the foul line in the fourth quarter.

Oklahoma City coach Scott Brooks is going to have to figure something out quick.

The good news for Brooks is that his youngsters kept scrapping all the way to the end. Down a lot on the road to a well-rested veteran team, they could have considered this game a lost cause and saved energy for the next game. Perhaps they remembered Dallas' history of blowing big, late leads. Earlier this postseason, the Mavericks coughed up a 23-point lead over the final 14 minutes against Portland.

"It was closer than we wanted in the fourth quarter, but we came through," Nowitzki said.

Shawn Marion scored 11 points and Jason Kidd had 11 assists and three steals. His only points came on a 3-pointer set up by Westbrook abandoning him for one of those ill-fated double-team attempts on Nowitzki.

After tying a playoff record with 20 3-pointers in its last game, Dallas missed its first six tries from behind the arc. The Mavericks finished 9 of 23 on 3-pointers. Terry was 4 of 8 after making 9 of 10 in the close-out game against the Lakers.

The Mavs came out sharp, hitting seven of their first 10 shots, only to slip into a funk that left them down by seven points at the start of the second quarter. Then they found the groove they had in their last game.

Dallas scored 35 points in the period, including a 13-0 stretch that began after Perkins' right elbow inadvertently conked Marion's nose. Marion went down and writhed on the court as play continued. Officials didn't notice and Mavs coach Rick Carlisle got a technical foul on his way to his injured player, presumably for pointing out what they didn't see.

The trainer cleaned up Marion quickly and, with a plug of gauze up his right nostril, he was part of the game-changing run, even scoring the go-ahead basket on a dunk.

SECAUCUS, N.J. (AP)—The new face of the Cavaliers is 14 years old, wears a bow tie and has battled disease since birth.

Nick Gilbert looks nothing like LeBron James, but on Tuesday night he brought back all the hope that left Cleveland right along with its franchise player last summer.

The Cavaliers got a huge jump on their post-LeBron rebuilding process, winning the lottery and the No. 1 selection in next month's NBA draft.

"Shocking events took place last summer and it was a slow, long, painful haul to get through it. Maybe this will be the final straw in getting over the hump, getting to the other side, and having a lot of hope for the future," Cavs owner Dan Gilbert said. "That's what we need."

Gilbert sent his son and "hero", 14-year-old Nick Gilbert, to the stage and the kid came up with a stunning victory, as the Cavs turned a pick from the Los Angeles Clippers that had only a 2.8 percent chance of victory into the top spot.

Nick Gilbert was born with Neurofibromatosis (NF), a nerve disorder that causes tumors to grow anywhere in the body at any time. He was wearing black-rimmed glasses and a bow tie and looked serious until he showed a keen sense of humor in a television

Cavs win draft lottery, will draft No. 1

interview. His father called him his "hero" for the way he has fought the disease.

"It's sort of Nick fashion. He has been doing it his whole life to some degree. I'm proud of him. I'm proud of the way he carried himself and I am very excited for the fans of Cleveland, Ohio who have been through a very, very rough year," Dan Gilbert said. "They deserve it more than anybody and they have some good hope now."

The Cavs will select first for the first time since 2003, when they drafted James out of high school.

He left for Miami last summer and the Cavs tumbled to the second-worst record in the league, but they will have two top-four picks next month as they try to back owner Dan Gilbert's boast that they would win a title before James. They already had their own pick and acquired another at the trade deadline from the Clippers in the deal for Baron Davis.

Minnesota will select second and Utah turned New Jersey's pick from the Deron Williams trade into the No. 3 selection.

The Timberwolves continued their unbelievable lottery losing streak, falling to 0 for 14 and dropping for the

eighth time. They had a 25 percent chance of winning after finishing with a league-worst 17-65 record.

Instead the luck went to the Cavs, who are used to playing deep in the playoffs and hope they won't have to worry about this trip again.

Besides Nick Gilbert, the Cavs also brought along current Cleveland Browns Josh Cribbs and Joe Haden, dressed in the Cavs' wine and gold jerseys, and former Browns star Bernie Kosar for good luck.

They will likely decide between point guard Kyrie Irving of Duke or Arizona forward Derrick Williams as the top pick.

"I don't think you can make comparisons to me and LeBron," said Irving, who attended the lottery. "One, I'm not 6-8. Two, I'm not a high flyer and three, my name isn't LeBron James. Honestly, you can't make those comparisons yet. I think I would bring a different feel to the Cleveland organization if they do decide to take me."

With the NBA down to its final four teams, 14 at the bottom of the standings made the trip to NBA Entertainment studios in northern New Jersey for what Commissioner David

Stern called the league's "annual rite of renewal."

"There are a lot of teams who think they are one player away and this may be the player," Stern said during a news conference before the lottery.

And it was an important year to finish near the top. In part because of the league's uncertain labor situation, the draft is not considered particularly deep. North Carolina's Harrison Barnes and Ohio State center Jared Sullinger were among the expected lottery picks who instead decided to return to school.

But the lottery again failed to help the team that needed it most. Not since 2004, when the Orlando Magic picked Dwight Howard, has the team with the worst record picked first in the draft.

The Wolves went from second to fourth when Washington won last year, but this drop could be more costly—though probably not as much as the only other time they had the best chance to win. A two-spot dive in 1992 cost them a shot at Shaquille O'Neal and they instead settled for Christian Laettner at No. 3.

Wolves general manager David Kahn said he knew Minnesota was "dead" when it got down to the final

three of himself, Utah executive Kevin O'Connor and Nick Gilbert.

"This league has a habit, and I am just going to say habit, of producing some pretty incredible story lines," Kahn said. "Last year it was Abe Pollin's widow and this year it was a 14-year-old boy and the only thing we have in common is we have both been bar mitzvahed. We were done. I told Kevin: 'We're toast.' This is not happening for us and I was right."

Then again, maybe the Cavs needed the help more. James' departure from his home state turned a 60-win power into the worst team in the Eastern Conference. Dan Gilbert was defiant when James left, but it was obvious all season his team needed plenty more firepower to live up to his tough talk, especially when the Cavs lost an NBA-record 26 consecutive games.

"We have some very good, young talent and we got a couple of great players hurt early or in the middle of the year and they are coming back," Dan Gilbert said. "We have some great talent and hopefully who we pick up at 1 and 4 and I just can't believe this is really happening."

Toronto and Washington dropped to Nos. 5 and 6 and Sacramento, represented by Mayor Kevin Johnson, fell to No. 7.

The draft is June 23 in Newark, N.J.

McCann homers twice, Braves beat Astros in 11



ATLANTA(AP)—Brian McCann leveled the game with a pinch-hit, two-out homer in the ninth inning, then hit a two-run shot in the 11th to lead the Atlanta Braves past the Houston Astros 3-1 on Tuesday.

The Braves were trailing 1-0 and down to their final strike in the ninth when McCann drove a 1-2 pitch the opposite way, the ball just clearing the wall in left-center.

The All-Star catcher stayed in the game behind the plate and two innings later, he ended it with his fourth homer of the season — a towering drive down the right-field line, just inside the foul pole against Jeff Fulchino (0-2).

Cory Gearrin (1-1) escaped a bases-loaded, one-out jam in the top of the 11th and was rewarded with his first career win.

Rockies 5, Giants 3

At Denver, Carlos Gonzalez's two-run single off Javier Lopez capped a four-run eighth-inning rally as Colorado surged back into first place in the National League West with a win over San Francisco.

Gonzalez, whose three-run homer off Tim Lincecum propelled Colorado past the Giants on Monday night, sent a fastball to right field to snap a 3-3 tie and make a winner of Matt Belisle (4-2), who worked one inning of relief.

Reds 7, Cubs 5

At Cincinnati, reliever Kerry Wood's throwing error let two runs score and Chris Heisey followed with a tie-breaking sacrifice fly in the eighth inning that sent Cincinnati over Chicago.

The Cubs self-destructed with four errors in a steady rain. All seven of Cincinnati's runs were unearned.

Wood (1-3) threw wide of third while trying to get a forceout on Ryan Hanigan's sacrifice bunt, allowing the catcher to go all the way to third base while the tying runs scored. Heisey put the Reds ahead and Joey Votto added an RBI double.

Diamondbacks 6, Padres 1

At Phoenix, Miguel Montero and Gerardo Parra both had two hits and drove in two runs to help Arizona to a victory over San Diego.

Only 16,365 fans were on hand for the Diamondbacks' third win in four games, the fourth-lowest mark in franchise history.

Daniel Hudson threw seven strong innings for Arizona, allowing a run two batters into the game before posting six scoreless innings. Hudson (4-5) gave up eight hits with two walks and six strikeouts. Stephen Drew added an RBI single.

Cardinals 2, Phillies 1

At St. Louis, Lance Berkman lined a bases-loaded single over a drawn-in outfield with one out in the ninth inning to give St. Louis a win over Philadelphia.

Jaime Garcia allowed five hits and an unearned run in eight innings for the

Cardinals, but gave up a 1-0 lead in the eighth — enabled when second baseman Tyler Greene dropped Jimmy Rollins' routine pop fly with one out. Rollins eventually scored on a sacrifice fly by Placido Polanco.

Dodgers 3, Brewers 0

At Los Angeles, Hiroki Kuroda out-pitched former teammate Randy Wolf with his second straight scoreless outing and Matt Kemp hit a two-run homer as Los Angeles ended Milwaukee's four-game winning streak.

Kuroda (5-3) allowed six hits in 7 2-3 innings, struck out seven and walked three. It was the fifth time this season that the Dodgers won when scoring three runs or fewer — including last Wednesday at Pittsburgh, when Kuroda pitched two-hit ball over seven innings in a 2-0 win.

Yankees 6, Rays 2

At St. Petersburg, Florida, Alex Rodriguez homered twice and Jorge Posada had two hits as the New York Yankees

three-run double in the first inning off Sean O'Sullivan.

White Sox 4, Rangers 3

At Chicago, Gordon Beckham scampered home on Cody Eppley's wild pitch in the eighth inning to lift Chicago to a sorely needed victory over Texas.

Beckham began the inning with a walk and made it all the way to third on pinch-hitter Dallas McPherson's single to center. McPherson, who was promoted when Mark Teahen went on the disabled list earlier in the day, picked up his first hit since Sept. 10, 2008, for Florida at Philadelphia.

Twins 2, Mariners 1

At Seattle, Francisco Liriano outdueled Felix Hernandez as Minnesota ended a nine-game losing streak with a victory over Florida.

Liriano (3-5), who threw a no-hitter May 3 at the Chicago White Sox, was nearly as stingy. He allowed three singles, walked one and had a season-high nine strikeouts. Matt



Atlanta Braves' Brian McCann hits a walk off two-run home run in the eleventh inning of a baseball game against the Houston Astros Tuesday, May 17, 2011, in Atlanta. AP

stopped a six-game losing streak with a victory over the Tampa Bay Rays.

With Yankees managing general partner Hal Steinbrenner in attendance, New York ended its longest skid since dropping seven in a row from April 20-27, 2007.

Posada doubled and singled while batting seventh as the designated hitter. It was his first start since he pulled himself out of the lineup Saturday soon after he was set to bat ninth.

Indians 7, Royals 3

At Kansas City, Missouri, Carlos Santana and Asdrubal Cabrera both homered, and Travis Hafner hit a bases-loaded double to power Cleveland past Kansas City for a two-game sweep.

One night after the Indians romped 19-1 and tied the record for KC's biggest losing margin, Hafner unloaded his

Capps got the final three outs for his sixth save in eight opportunities.

Hernandez (4-4) allowed three hits and two runs in eight innings. He walked three and struck out nine.

The Twins' victory came on the day that one of the team's greatest players, Harmon Killebrew, died at his Scottsdale, Arizona home.

Athletics 14, Angels 0

At Oakland, California, Gio Gonzalez allowed just one hit over seven innings as Oakland emerged from a rain-soaked start to hammer the Los Angeles Angels.

Gonzalez (5-2) struck out seven and allowed only a line-drive single to Howie Kendrick leading off the fifth. He also walked one and cruised the rest of the way behind a dominant breaking ball and an offense that had its best game of the season.

Another round of NFL talks ends without agreement



MINNEAPOLIS (AP)—The NFL and its locked-out players wrapped up another round of court-ordered mediation Tuesday without any signs of a new agreement and the clock ticking on the 2011 season.

Officials and attorneys for both sides said they will return for more closed-door talks with U.S. Magistrate Judge Arthur Boylan on June 7, four days after a key appeals court hearing in St. Louis on the legality of the lockout.

NFL lead negotiator Jeff Pash and Hall of Famer Carl Eller both said the talks went well, but there was no indication of any significant progress toward a new collective bargaining agreement. Pash said he thought Boylan had done a good job of "pushing the parties," but he said he doesn't believe the dispute over the future of the \$9 billion business will be settled in court.

"The only way we're going to solve this is by sitting down together," Pash said, echoing the NFL's preference for traditional negotiations in a collective bargaining setting and adding: "We owe it to our game. We owe it to our fans. We owe it to each other, to the players and to the clubs, to sit down and negotiate."

Said Pash: "I think we got some work done today, and we're going to keep at it."

They've been at it for a long time. The two sides met for 16 days before talks fell apart March 11 and the lockout began. Boylan, who presided over four days of mediation last month and two more days this week, also had lunch with DeMaurice Smith, executive director of the NFL Players Association, and NFL Commissioner Roger Goodell.

Pash was coy when asked about the significance of that separate meeting.

"We weren't invited. Us staff guys, you know, we didn't rate for the big power lunch, so we're eager to hear about it ourselves," Pash said.

The two sides are not scheduled to meet again until June, just a month before training camps typically begin and just eight weeks before the first preseason game on Aug. 8.

"I feel we really got some movement between last night and today," Eller said, declining like the rest of the participants to discuss details.

Linebacker Mike Vrabel, one of the plaintiffs on the antitrust lawsuit against the league, questioned the NFL's commitment to striking a deal outside the courthouse after mediation concluded.

"I don't know if there's any sense of urgency on their part," Vrabel said. "I certainly understand that the closer you get to training camp, and the dates as players we're used to reporting for training camp and playing preseason games and playing regular-season games, this thing becomes a lot more real for everybody involved. The players aren't out there doing the work they'd normally be doing. They're do-

ing it on their own and they're taking a lot of risk. I think that people appreciate the fact that guys are still preparing for a season."

Vrabel added: "I think the most important thing is that we continue to meet."

Owners have a regularly scheduled meeting next week, but Pash said they won't be putting together a "plan of attack."

"We're not at war with anybody. These players are an integral part of our business, and we want to work with them," he said.

There are some huge court matters looming, including the June 3 hearing before the 8th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals on the legality of the lockout, with a ruling likely a few weeks after. The same three-judge panel handling the hearing has already ruled twice in favor of the league, keeping the lockout in place.

U.S. District Judge David Doty is also deciding whether to award players more than \$707 million in damages and to bar the NFL from using \$4 billion in broadcast revenue. Doty has already said the league failed to secure the most income for the players when it re-negotiated those broadcast contracts.

Also, the federal antitrust lawsuit filed against the NFL by the players is still pending.

Robert Boland, a professor of sports management at New York University who is following the case, said the timing doesn't help the players.

"The players have had great solidarity to this point, but that will get tighter as players go longer and longer without their workout and signing bonuses and get closer to the season," Boland said. "The longer we go without any kind of sense of when they will get paid again, the more their internal resolve is tested and the harder it becomes to hold them together."

He added: "Essentially, the NFL does want and need to play, but there's really no incentive from a financial and technical perspective to rush that. They can allow the players to come back to them."

Separately, the U.S. Chamber of Commerce business lobbying group filed a brief Tuesday supporting the league.

The chamber, like the NFL, noted that the dispute is currently before the National Labor Relations Board in the form of an unfair labor negotiations charge against the players. Until then, the chamber said, the court fight should be on hold and the NFL should be able to lock out its players if needed.

"For the collective bargaining process to work as Congress intended, the parties to the dispute must largely be left by the courts to their own devices," the chamber said. "The prospect of self-help forces the parties to make difficult choices" with the option of judges coming to their aid."

The NHL, which could face its own labor problem next year, earlier filed a similar brief supporting the NFL.

COPSSA Basketball League Awards Ceremony



Coalition of Private Schools Sports Association Basketball League honors its top players for the 2010-2011 season.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO



ROSELYN B. MONROYO

The top performers in the girls varsity, from left, Mt. Carmel School's Keolani Lebria, Grace Christian Academy's Christine Cristobal, and Saipan International School's Zoe Jewell and MVP Amber Roberts pose for a photo after receiving their medals during the awards ceremony for the 2010-2011 Coalition of Private Schools Sports Association Basketball League.



ROSELYN B. MONROYO

The top players in the boys varsity, from left, Mt. Carmel's Reynald Cabaltica, SIS' Richard Wang, GCA's Angelo Salas, and Agape Christian School's Li Wei Liang wait for the announcement of the MVP.



ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Saipan International School players and their coach Rebecca Iseman, left, are all smiles after winning the girls varsity championships against Mt. Carmel.



ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Players of Mt. Carmel School pose with their runner-up trophy.



ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Grace Christian Academy Eagles celebrate their title win in the boys varsity division.



ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Mt. Carmel School players and their coach, Rommel Calcena, right, receive the runner-up trophy.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Agape Christian School coach Noel Puno, standing left, poses with his players and the Sportsmanship Award the Torchbearers won in the boys varsity caging.



**McCann
homers twice,
Braves beat
Astros in 11**

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Saipan Tribune Sports

**Nowitzki's 48
lead Mavs
past Thunder
in Game 1**

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SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Heo sweeps games in Nationals

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Former CNMI junior player Ji Hoon Heo completed a perfect record in his debut in the NCAA Division II Nationals.

Heo won both his singles and doubles matches against No. 3 ranked Corcordia College to give Hawaii Pacific University two of the four points in the first round of the Nationals played at the Sanlando Park in Altamonte Springs, Florida on May 11. Unfortunately, Heo and company lost the closely fought match, 4-5.

"We performed really well and we played our best tennis in the Nationals. Although we lost in the first round, we're proud ending the season with a great performance. We nearly beat the No. 3 team in the division. We were this close," Heo said in an email to *Saipan Tribune*.

Heo first played in the doubles game and he and teammate Sebastian Bader defeated Tamas Dobrotka and Geza Bazula, 8-5, to help the Sea Warriors tie Corcordia, 1-all. Corcordia took a 1-0 lead when it prevailed in the third doubles match.

The Sea Warriors won another doubles game and Heo gave HPU a 3-1 advantage when he swept his singles foe. The former CNMI junior player played at No. 3 in singles and eased past Bazula, 6-1, 6-3.

"We went on to the singles 10 minutes after we took a 2-1 lead and the weather conditions were insane. It was much like Saipan maybe not as bad but all the players in the tournament had a hard time adjusting to the high temperature and humidity in Altamonte Springs," Heo said.

See HEO on Page 26

Ji Hoon Heo serves during one of the home games of Hawaii Pacific University in the NCAA Division II competition last month.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Ayuyu lifts TKK 2 to pennant win

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER



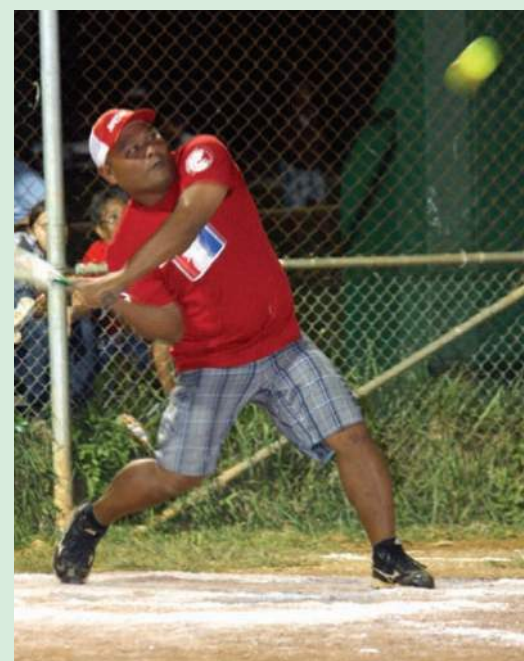
Jerry Ayuyu blasted a two-run homer in the seventh inning to power TKK 2 to an 11-10 victory over the Tigers in the battle for the pennant in the 2011 Belau Amateur Softball Association Slow-Pitch League last Sunday at the Dandan Elementary School Ballfield.

TKK 2 was behind, 9-10, going into the bottom of the seventh inning when Ayuyu made the game-winning hit. Phil Celis led off for TKK 2 and flied out to left field. James Fleming was next at bat and also flied out to center field. Third batter Roy Celis walked to first to keep TKK 2's hopes alive and later made it to home plate together with Ayuyu, who connected on an over-the-fence homer.

The Tigers and TKK 2 finished the regular season of the 12-team league with similar 10-1 records and had to face off anew for the pennant crown.

TKK 2 got off to a slow start in the tiebreaker, failing to score a single run in the first two innings, while the Tigers took an early 6-0 lead. Vince Cepeda's led the Tigers attack with his two-run homer in the second inning.

See AYUYU on Page 26



ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Jerry Ayuyu, seen here in a file photo, blasted a two-run homer that lifted TKK 2 to an 11-10 pennant win over the Tigers in the Belau league last Saturday at the Dandan Elementary School Ballfield.

Paire regains form in men's league

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER



2011 NMIFA Men's Invitational Football League after notching a 2-0 win over Baek Du San during their game last Sunday at the Oleai Sports Complex.

Paire, which dropped its last two games in Division A, drew one goal each from youth player Timothy Tawanpiy and Zhi Peng Lin to hand Baek Du San back-to-back losses last week.

Tawanpiy made it to the scoreboard first in the 20th minute for Paire's 1-0 halftime lead. Then one

Paire Football Club is back on track in the



ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Paire's Steve McKagan, left, has the ball during their game against Baek Du San in Division A of the NMIFA men's league last Sunday at the Oleai Sports Complex Field.

minute before the match ended, Lin lit up the scoreboard with his first and only goal in the game.

Inter Godfather's 4, Baek Du San 0 Inter Godfather's 3, KFAS 0

Inter Godfather's claimed two wins last week with Baek Du San its first victim, 4-0.

Four different players scored for Inter Godfather's in its game against Baek Du San. Edwin Cruz was first on the list with his goal in the ninth minute, followed by Gilmark Reusora in the 15th. Then it took a while before Inter Godfather's scored in the second half, as Jacob Van Dam gave the team its third goal in the 70th minute. Inter

See PAIRE on Page 26

Konflikt, Blue Hauz prevail in QQ caging

By WALTER CEPEDA-SUTHERLAND
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REPORTER



QQ Car Rental Basketball Cup

Blue Hauz and Konflikt reigned supreme in last Monday's

League pairings at the Garapan Basketball Court.

Blue Hauz routed Prospects, 110-64, in the first match; while Konflikt kicked it in high gear in the third quarter to knock off Mobil, 81-67.

In the first game, Blue Hauz's Ivan Devero carried the torch with 11 early points as his team

built a stout 27-17 lead after the opening quarter.

Teammate Dave Sablan then drained three from downtown and totaled 12 points in the second quarter as Blue Hauz amassed a daunting 21-point spread, 55-34, at the break.

See KONFLIKT on Page 26

EMS Week May 15-21, 2011 • EMSC Day May 18, 2011



**Firehouse Open House, May 21, 2011 • 9am – 2pm (Garapan Fire Station)
Bike Rodeo, May 21, 2011 • 9am – 2pm (American Memorial Park)**

Bike Parade starts at Horiguchi Bldg at 8am and will end at Garapan Fire Station

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